



YEAR IN REVIEW

Reflect, Recognize, and Reset

What We Learned, What Worked, and What Comes Next in Attendance & Engagement.

Jess Anderson
Count ME In



In the chat, what is one
word to describe this
school year for you?



Belonging & Safety

Connection Before Content

Students engage when they feel emotionally safe, connected, and known.



Relationship
Mapping

Threshold
Greetings

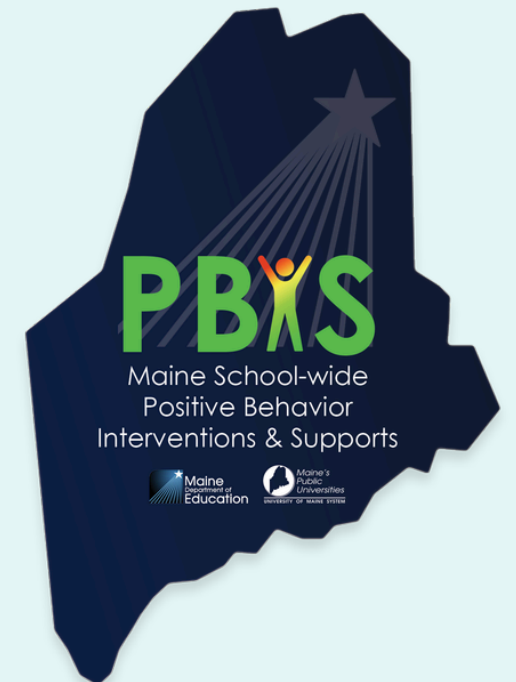
School
Climate
Surveys

- ✓ Welcoming classroom environments
- ✓ Predictable and safe routines
- ✓ Strong adult-student relationships

Belonging & Safety

“School climate is strongly associated with attendance—and the connection is even stronger today than before the COVID-19 pandemic.”

-UChicago Consortium on School Research



<https://www.maine.gov/doe/safety/restorative>

In the chat, what is one way you support student-staff relationships?



Work Collaboratively & Intervene Early

Early ID & Collaboration

Attendance improvement works best when schools respond early and collaboratively as a team.



Noticing patterns
before they
become barriers.

Every staff member
plays a role in
engagement.

Early Warning Systems

“After two years of implementation, schools, on average, experienced a 32% decline in the percent of students failing one or more courses, and a 28% decline in chronically absent students.”

-Grad Partnership

Attendance Tracker

SID#	GRADE	HOME-ROOM	LASTFIRST	SEPT	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB
147094	-1	Allen		1	1	5	4	2	2
138692	-1	Allen		3	3	4	0	1	0
238116	-1	Allen		0	0	3	0	1	0
289682	-1	Allen		3	2	0	3	2	2
299966	-1	Allen		2	3	3	5	2	1
14158	-1	Allen		1	2	0	0	0	2
436223	-1	Allen		2	0	3	2	0	1
229256	-1	Allen		3	0	4	3	0	0
137067	-1	Allen		2	2	0	0	0	2
256247	-1	Allen		2	2	1	2	2	1
96979	-1	Allen		2	3	2	0	9	0
260051	-1	Allen		4	2	1	3	2	0
16841	-1	Allen		4	0	0	4	1	2
398183	-1	Allen		3	3	4	2	4	2
498399	-1	Allen		0	3	0	2	4	2
CURRENT ATTENDANCE DATA				SUMMARY 2	QUICK EXPORT CODING	MAINE TRUANCY LAW	COMPULSORY ATTENDANCE		

Risk Screening Tool

What is one data point
that you have been
monitoring this school
year?



Family Partnership

Families are more likely to engage when communication feels supportive, clear, and culturally responsive.

“Students are more likely to attend school regularly when their families give the school high ratings on family engagement.” Miller, E. & Gaumer Erickson, A. S., 2023



Formerly Ready4K



What is one family
engagement move that
you have made this
school year?



Recognition & Systems

Recognition works best when it reinforces belonging, not just compliance.



“Recognition of good or improved attendance should be part of creating a school-wide culture and accompanied by a deep commitment to ensuring students are engaged in the school community and the classroom once they show up.

- ✓ Positive relationship-centered motivation
- ✓ Elevating student voice in systems
- ✓ Strong schoolwide Tier 1 habits

It is one part of a tiered attendance system.”

-Attendance Works

Take 3 minutes to scroll through this slide deck, what's one thing that affirms your work this school year?



Maine PBIS: Integrating Attendance & PBIS

“Parents, schools and communities must work together to ensure that students understand the importance of making every school day count. The earlier that absences are identified and addressed, the more successful students will become.”

— Carey M. Wright, Ed.D. State Superintendent of Education for Mississippi

Reflection



- ✓ What is one thing that rocked about your attendance this year?
- ✓ What is one thing you did to support attendance this year that you will stick with for next year?
- ✓ What is one thing that you want to leave behind/stop doing next year?

What to do BEFORE Summer

Reconnect with
disengaged
students and
facilitate WARM
handoffs

Celebrate growth
and success

Send positive
messages to
students & families
on the “cusp”

High-Impact Summer Planning



Clarify Expectations

Simplify communication for all staff and families.

Onboarding Routines

Focus on welcoming transitions

Data Review Cycle

Streamline team meetings for maximum efficiency.

Starting Strong: Fall Priorities

Day 1	Week 1	Week 2	Month 1
○ Relationship-centered openings & warm welcomes.	○ Establish and teach predictable routines.	○ Proactive family outreach before problems arise.	○ Early attendance review & student voice check- ins.

<https://www.attendanceworks.org/resources/year-long-planning/>