THE POWER OF PRESENCE

♦ LDOE ATTENDANCE ♦

October 2026 Attendance Monthly Call

Enhancing Academic Success Through a Statewide Attendance Strategy

Agenda

- Introduction/Sign In
- Monthly Call Focus & Purpose
  - Clean Attendance List
  - Data Tracking
  - Incentive Tracking
  - Reminders
- Updates

Clean Attendance List

Clean Data. Clear Decisions. Timely Support.

A clean attendance list helps teams

- identify the right students;
- distinguish chronic absenteeism from truancy;
- recognize emerging attendance concerns;
- match students with appropriate supports;
- monitor whether interventions are working; and
- avoid missed, delayed, or duplicated outreach.

Key Takeaway: Accurate data turns attendance from a compliance activity into an early-warning and support system.

What Is a Clean Attendance List?

A clean attendance list is

- accurate;
- current;
- complete;
- consistently coded;
- free of duplicate or inactive records;
- reviewed by the appropriate staff; and
- ready to support action.

Question to Consider: How do your guidance and data quality checks promote clean attendance lists at your schools?

What Is a Clean Attendance List?

A clean list answers four questions.

1. Who is missing school?
2. How much instructional time has been missed?
3. What type of attendance concern is occurring?
4. What action has already been taken?

What Should We Check?

Enrollment and roster accuracy

- Is the student actively enrolled?
- Are entry and withdrawal dates correct?
- Has a transferred student been removed?
- Is the student listed at the correct school and grade?
- Are there duplicate student records?

What Should We Check?

Daily attendance accuracy

- Has attendance been entered for every instructional day?
- Are there blank or missing attendance entries?
- Were corrections and excuse notes entered?
- Are full-day and partial-day absences coded correctly?
- Were late arrivals and early checkouts recorded properly?

What Should We Check?

Coding consistency

- Are excused and unexcused absences coded correctly?
- Are suspensions and expulsions included appropriately?
- Are staff members using the same definitions and codes?
- Do unusual or frequently used codes require review?

Attendance Data Tracking

Data Tracking With Purpose

Effective data tracking helps attendance teams

- establish an accurate baseline;
- identify patterns and emerging concerns;
- determine which students need support;
- understand reasons for absences;
- monitor progress toward attendance goals;
- evaluate interventions and incentives; and
- make timely adjustments.

Key Message: Collect data to drive action, not simply to produce a report.

What Attendance Data Should We Track?

Attendance metrics

- Overall attendance rate
- Chronic absenteeism rate
- Truancy rate
- Total excused and unexcused absences
- Tardies and early checkouts
- Consecutive and recurring absence patterns

What Attendance Data Should We Track?

Student support information

- Students approaching or meeting attendance thresholds
- Number of students receiving support at each tier
- Reasons and barriers contributing to absences
- Family communication and interventions provided
- Student response and movement between tiers

Establish a Consistent Tracking Cycle

Daily

- Verify attendance was entered and submitted
- Resolve missing or inaccurate records
- Respond to unexplained absences

Biweekly

- Compare current attendance metrics with baseline data and goals
- Determine whether improvement is occurring at the expected pace

Monthly

- Evaluate chronic absenteeism and truancy rates
- Review intervention and incentive effectiveness
- Reassess tier placement and adjust strategies

Move From Data to Action

- Collect
- Analyze
- Identify
- Act
- Monitor
- Adjust

Incentive Tracking

Are Our Attendance Incentives Working?

Incentive tracking helps teams determine important factors.

- Are students and families participating?
- Is the incentive reaching the intended students?
- Is attendance improving because of the incentive?
- Are improvements continuing over time?
- Is the incentive worth the time, cost, and resources?
- Should the incentive continue, change, expand, or end?

Key message: Participation is important, but improved attendance is the intended outcome.

Define Success Before You Begin

Before launching an incentive

Identify the attendance concern

- Low attendance during a particular month
- Frequent Monday or Friday absences
- Repeated tardiness
- High chronic absenteeism in a grade or subgroup

Establish a baseline

- Current attendance rate
- Chronic absenteeism rate
- Truancy rate
- Number of students affected

Define Success Before You Begin

Set a measurable goal.

- Desired improvement
- Target student group
- Monitoring period
- Date for reviewing results

Sample goal:

Increase Friday attendance for ninth-grade students from 89 percent to 93 percent during the next nine weeks.

What Should We Track?

Implementation

- Incentive offered
- Target group
- Start and end dates
- Eligibility requirements
- Staff responsible
- Total cost and staff time

What Should We Track?

Participation and buy-in

- Number and percentage of eligible students participating
- Family awareness and participation
- Student and family feedback
- Reasons for participating or not participating

Attendance outcomes

- Attendance before, during, and after the incentive
- Change in chronic absenteeism and truancy
- Improvement by school, grade, and subgroup
- Whether improvement was sustained

Measure More Than Participation

Question	Evidence to Review
Did students participate?	Participation rate
Did families understand the incentive?	Communication records and feedback
Did attendance improve?	Baseline and current attendance
Who benefited?	Results by grade and subgroup
Did improvement last?	Attendance after the incentive ended
Was it worth the investment?	Outcomes compared with cost and staff time

Use the Results to Make a Decision

Continue

Attendance improved, participation was strong, and the strategy was implemented as intended.

Modify

Some improvement occurred, but eligibility, communication, timing, or the incentive itself needs adjustment.

Expand

The incentive produced meaningful results and may benefit additional students or schools.

Use the Results to Make a Decision

Discontinue

Attendance did not improve, participation was low, or the cost outweighed the results.

Investigate further

The data is incomplete, the incentive was not implemented consistently, or other factors may have influenced attendance.

Reminders

Breaks

Remember the **DIP** days students are historically absent. Use this information to plan targeted incentives and interventions.

- Fall Break
  - The day before and the day after
- Thanksgiving Break
  - The day before and the day after

NOW is the time to be proactive and prepare!



Questions?

Resources

Louisiana Attendance Planning

- State-Wide Attendance Strategy
- Attendance Policy and Statutes
- Attendance Data
- Attendance Team Documents
- Attendance Tiered Strategy Template



Power of Presence Attendance Webpage

Please email attendance@la.gov with questions.



Updates

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- For LEAs that received Super App funding, monthly progress monitoring entries should be made today for September.
- Previous presentations can be found on the LDOE Monthly Calls webpage

- Next Attendance Monthly Call
  - November 5, 2026 at 8:00 a.m.

Slide 29

1 @rayla.hunt@la.gov Added this reminder. Look ok?
Misty Davis, 9/30/2026