



NYC SUCCESS MENTOR CORPS

Mayor's Interagency Task Force on Truancy, Chronic Absenteeism and School Engagement

The NYC Success Mentor Corps is a research-based, data-driven mentoring model that seeks to improve attendance, behavior and educational outcomes for at-risk students in low-income communities citywide. Success Mentors are trained to serve as advisors, motivators, connectors, confidence-builders, and early warning systems for chronically absent students at risk of getting off track – both in school and in life.

As part of the Mayor's multi-agency campaign to improve school attendance and educational outcomes, Success Mentors are uniquely positioned to make an impact: they come into schools at a leadership level, have direct access to key players in schools and community-based organizations, have unprecedented access to critical student data, are able to take advantage of interagency resources and expertise, and are part of a centralized, innovative infrastructure that supports their work in real time.

Mentors are typically matched with 10-15 target students, who they see in school at least three times a week. Mentor responsibilities are determined by what research shows are the most effective practices for engaging at-risk students and their families. These include personally greeting students in the morning to make them feel welcomed and noticed, calling home every day a child is absent, and connecting students and families with a wide range of services to help them overcome barriers to success.

the KEY COMPONENTS

Largest, most comprehensive in-school mentoring program in the nation helping more than 4,000 at-risk students

Innovative use of data and tools to drive student achievement, including creation of first-ever mentor data sharing agreement and Electronic Data Dashboard

New school infrastructure to maximize mentor success and increase student achievement

New accountability and oversight tools, including monthly City Hall strategy reviews, site visits by technical advisors, and ongoing training and retreats with top national mentoring leaders

the CHALLENGE

ONE out of **FIVE**

NYC PUBLIC SCHOOL STUDENTS - **MORE THAN 250,000** - MISSED A MONTH OR MORE OF SCHOOL IN THE 2009-2010 ACADEMIC YEAR



THREE out of **FOUR**

STUDENTS WHO ARE SEVERELY CHRONICALLY ABSENT IN THE SIXTH GRADE NEVER GRADUATE FROM HIGH SCHOOL

STUDENTS WITH GOOD ATTENDANCE WERE MORE THAN **TWICE** as **LIKELY**

TO SCORE PROFICIENT ON NYS EXAMINATIONS THAN THOSE WHO WERE CHRONICALLY ABSENT



79% OF NYC CHILDREN IN THE JUVENILE JUSTICE SYSTEM HAVE RECORDS OF CHRONIC ABSENTEEISM

Learn more at: WWW.NYC.GOV/EVERYSTUDENT

the **SUCCESS MENTOR MODELS**

External: community partnerships

Internal: selected & trained school staff

Peer-to-Peer: high school juniors and seniors helping 9th graders

Transition Coaches: specialized mentors helping students return to school from suspensions, juvenile justice facilities, foster care, and homeless shelters

the **ADVISORS**

Johns Hopkins University's Everyone Graduates Center (Dr. Robert Balfanz, lead advisor); the Children's Aid Society (technical advisor); NYC Service; Princeton Center for Leadership Training; and United Way. Community and academic partners include City Year, ReServe, Good Shepherd Services, and New York University

the **OTHER TASK FORCE INITIATIVES**

Wake Up! NYC Celebrity Phone Call Campaign

New Models for Connecting Schools to Local Community Services

New Parent Engagement Models

First-Ever Multi-Agency Data Sharing Agreements for Early Warning and Prevention

Asthma-Friendly Schools Campaign to Reduce Asthma-Related Absences

New Policies and Programs to Create a Culture of School Attendance and Success in Family Homeless Shelters and NYC Housing Authority ("NYCHA") Facilities

Innovative Public-Private Partnerships, Including Macy's, Starbucks, and the New York Yankees

Ad Council Attendance Awareness Campaign

the **IMPACT**

CHRONICALLY ABSENT STUDENTS WITH SUCCESS MENTORS GAINED OVER **7,000 DAYS** OF ATTENDANCE LAST YEAR.

MENTORS ARE HELPING STUDENTS GET BACK ON TRACK:

IN ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS, 49% OF STUDENTS WITH FULL-YEAR MENTORS EXITED CHRONIC ABSENTEEISM STATUS VS. 42% OF STUDENTS WITHOUT MENTORS. **17% MORE**

IN HIGH SCHOOLS, 23% OF STUDENTS WITH FULL-YEAR MENTORS EXITED CHRONIC ABSENTEEISM STATUS VS. 18% OF STUDENTS WITHOUT MENTORS. **27% MORE**

PILOT SCHOOLS WITH FULL-YEAR SUCCESS MENTORS **OUTPERFORMED** COMPARISON SCHOOLS AND SCHOOLS CITYWIDE.

"Truancy is often a child's first step in the wrong direction. Chronic absenteeism leads to higher rates of school failure, delinquency, and dropping out. From there, it is often hard to recover. We are going to focus on truant children because keeping them in school is an investment in their health, future success, and everyone's safety."

Mayor Michael R. Bloomberg

"The power and scale of these Task Force initiatives are profound. It is the first time any city has attempted to reduce chronic absenteeism and truancy in such a comprehensive, strategic, and collaborative manner. What is striking is that the Task Force is addressing the problem on so many fronts simultaneously in its initiatives, recognizing the complexity and multiple causes of truancy and chronic absenteeism... [It] should serve as a model for all cities attempting to address this problem."

Dr. Robert Balfanz, Johns Hopkins University

