



**MAYOR'S INTERAGENCY TASK FORCE  
ON TRUANCY, CHRONIC ABSENTEEISM  
AND SCHOOL ENGAGEMENT**

**School-Based CBOs and Student Success**

**CBOs**

Schools partner with a wide variety of community-based organizations (CBOs) that provide programs and services to students (and their families) both on and off-site. These programs include afterschool programs, parent workshops, mental-health services, and school-based health clinics. The CBOs with which schools partner can lend their support to the attendance initiative in three important ways:

- 1) Whenever possible, targeting their services to the students (and their families) who are struggling with attendance.
- 2) Promoting the importance of good attendance to the students and families they are already working with in their programs.
- 3) Alerting school partners to any issues students or families are struggling with which may negatively impact attendance.
- 4) Participating in the Parent Summit and Resource Fair to share information about their programs and services with school families.

In order for CBOs to provide support, they need to be included, from the start, in the Mayor's Initiative. CBOs should approach principals and offer their support with this work. CBOs can ask the school for the list of target students and express their interest in joining the weekly attendance meetings (known as Principals Student Success Summits). Doing so can directly lead to powerful new opportunities. For example, At PS 149, during a Principals Student Success Summit, the CBO Groundworks offered to do more one-on-one counseling with students by bringing in Hunter College School of Social Work interns to do this work during the regular school day. In another example, Brooklyn Community Services offered to bring someone from their preventive services side to the weekly meetings, to better link those services to the target students and their families.

**CBO Afterschool/OST Programs**

Many schools partner with CBOs to provide Out-of-School Time programs. Research shows that participation in quality afterschool programs can help to improve students' attendance in school (UCLA National Center for Research on Evaluation, Standards and Student Testing, June 2000, December 2005 and September 2007).

CBOs can work with school partners to outreach to chronically absent or early warning students to enroll them in their OST programs. CBOs can make attendance in school a pre-requisite for attending the afterschool program that day. Once students are attending these programs, program staff can discuss and emphasize the importance of good school attendance with program participants and their parents (including informally as well as through program activities and program orientation).