Reducing
Chronic
Absenteeism

Strong attendance is the foundation for success in school. Research shows that students who miss fifteen or more school days in a year risk falling behind academically and are seven times more likely to drop out. Reducing chronic absenteeism requires consistent monitoring and close collaboration between schools, students and families.

DeansList can:

- Send attendance alerts to families and educators

- Generate attendance letters

- Share important attendance data with families

- Facilitate attendance celebrations

DeansList
Software that makes
schools run smoothly.

Basics of Chronic Absenteeism

Chronic absenteeism is defined as missing ten percent or more school days in a year. Unlike truancy, which refers only to unexcused absences (and is often a starting point in the school-to-prison pipeline), chronic absenteeism focuses on the effect of all absences on student learning. **Sixteen percent of students in the United States missed at least 15 school days in the 2015-2016 school year.**

Research on chronic absenteeism shows that:

- Chronic absent rates are highest for low income students and students of color. Identifying structural challenges, such as homelessness or lack of reliable transportation, is key to reducing absenteeism.

- While steps to reduce truancy often focus on compliance and use punitive measures, **efforts to address chronic absenteeism favor a supportive, multi-faceted approach.**

- Proactive support for at-risk students, reinforcement of positive habits, and open communication with families about the negative effects of absences can improve student attendance.

Reducing Chronic Absenteeism with DeansList

1. **Keep families in the loop** with attendance data and reminders

   Improving student attendance requires partnership between schools and families. When lines of communication are open, barriers to attendance can be identified and addressed. Schools need easy ways to regularly share data with families and document all efforts to help students improve their attendance.

   DeansList's messaging center enables schools to send custom texts, emails, and voice messages about attendance, and educators can record communications for absent students directly from the DeansList homepage. Through DeansList's customizable reports, students and families can review weekly and yearly attendance data together.

2. **Execute and track interventions** with custom lists and alerts

   Early intervention for at risk students is critical to reducing chronic absenteeism, but managing these supports can be a challenge for busy school staff members.

   DeansList streamlines schools' existing attendance intervention routines by using lists to identify students who have met custom absence criteria and sending email alerts to staff members. Attendance letters with pre-populated student data can be sent to families through DeansList when students hit a certain absence threshold.

3. **Celebrate success and progress** by recognizing positive attendance habits

   Positive recognition for excellent and improved attendance is motivating to students, and it reinforces that being in school every day is important. This recognition can take many forms, such as messages to families, individual or class-wide rewards, and celebratory certificates or reports.

   DeansList makes delivering positive feedback easy through automated texts and customizable lists and reports.