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PRESS RELEASE

Readout of White House Domestic Policy Advisor Neera Tanden and Deputy Secretary Cindy Marten's Roundtable with Philanthropic and Community Leaders on Chronic Absenteeism

As Part of the Roundtable, Several Participants Announced New Commitments and Resources to Support the Critical Work of Keeping Children and Youth Consistently Engaged in School

DECEMBER 18, 2024

The White House and the U.S. Department of Education on Tuesday co-hosted a roundtable on addressing chronic absenteeism in schools. During this roundtable, White House Domestic Policy Advisor Neera Tanden, and Deputy Secretary of Education Cindy Marten led a discussion with education leaders as well as researchers, philanthropic, private sector and non-profit leaders to discuss actions they are taking to support states, districts, and community-based organizations in making progress on increasing everyday school attendance. As part of this roundtable, several participants announced new commitments and resources to support the critical work of keeping children and youth consistently engaged in school moving forward.

These new commitments and resources include:

- The **U.S. Department of Education** (Department) released a [resource highlighting model state attendance data systems](#). This resource

describes how those data systems were designed and implemented to increase student attendance and it provides actionable recommendations for state and local leaders, philanthropy, and others to engage in this work.

- **The [National Partnership for Student Success \(NPSS\)](#) will support an additional 23 [Community Collaboration Challenge](#) mini-grant awards in 2025 totaling \$163,000 to support local communities in 21 states with expanding or piloting evidence-based student supports—including tutors, mentors, student success coaches, wraparound/integrated student support coordinators, and/or post-secondary transition coaches—in communities across the country. Additionally, NPSS will continue to provide more than 11,000 schools access to a range of supports through a series of engagement events designed to address chronic absence and improve student engagement through the [Attendance Solutions Network](#). NPSS is a public-private partnership between the Department, AmeriCorps, and the Johns Hopkins University Everyone Graduates Center.**
- Through [Every Day Counts](#), a collaboration between NPSS and the [Project Unicorn](#) organization, several education technology companies have committed to developing new data features within their platforms at no additional cost to help schools and districts reduce chronic absence. These new features will help educators and leaders to identify struggling students, engage families, and foster a supportive learning environment.
- **The Kresge Foundation published a [resource](#) for schools and districts on addressing chronic absenteeism**, containing a summary of leading practices and lessons from its work on this topic. These strategies emphasize place-based approaches that leverage community-based organizations to work alongside government and philanthropic entities to drive collective action and accountability.
- Researchers from **The Ohio State University, University of Texas at Austin, University of California Davis, University of Pennsylvania, University of North Carolina Chapel Hill, and Wayne State University released a new resource about addressing out-of-school barriers to chronic absenteeism**. The resource, called "[Before the Bell: Obstacles Preventing Children from Attending School](#)," as a starting point for conversations recognizing and addressing beyond-school barriers and encouraging education leaders and stakeholders to work together in new, cross-agency collaborative ways including how we think about and collect data.

The Kresge Foundation, Annie E. Casey Foundation, along with other philanthropic partners have committed to convening the participants of this roundtable for future collaboration in efforts to support local communities and districts.

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Related Content

[U.S. Department of Education's Office for Civil Rights Announces Resolution of Sexual Harassment Compliance Review of Green Bay Area Public School District in Green Bay,](#)

The Office for Civil Rights announced that Green Bay Public School District in Wisconsin entered into a resolution agreement to remedy a violation and compliance concerns related to the district's responses to notice of sexual harassment under Title IX.

DECEMBER 20, 2024

[U.S. Department of Education's Office for Civil Rights Resolves Discipline Investigation of Fall River Joint Unified School District in California](#)

The Office of Civil Rights announced today resolution of its discipline investigation of Fall River Joint Unified School District in California to ensure compliance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964.

DECEMBER 20, 2024

[U.S. Department of Education's Office for Civil Rights Resolves Complaint Against the University of Cincinnati Alleging Shared Ancestry Discrimination](#)

The Office for Civil Rights today secured a resolution agreement from the University of Cincinnati to address allegations of discrimination or harassment, including based on shared Jewish, Muslim, Palestinian and Arab

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