



# Attendance Matters Summit: Supporting Student Success

Hilton Garden Inn, Freeport, Maine  
Thursday, October 29, 2015

## Program Agenda

### Goals:

- Understand impact of school absenteeism on student engagement and academic achievement
- Learn about research-based strategies, programs, policies that have increased student attendance, engagement and academic achievement
- Build partnerships to collaboratively support children and families who have are at-risk or chronically absent
- Learn and consider strategies for creating a welcoming and safe environment for families and students

### Schedule

#### **8:00: Registration**

*Coffee, tea and juice available*

#### **8:55: Welcome**

Susan Lieberman, Director, Count ME In

#### **9:15: Working Together To Support Student Success**

Hedy Chang, Director, Attendance Works

#### **10:35: Break**

#### **10:50: State Policy Perspective**

Rachelle Tome, Chief Academic Officer, Maine Department of Education

#### **11:10: Panel Discussion: Lessons Learned**

Panelists: Beth Gilboy, School-Based Parent Partner, Communities Partnerships for Protecting Children

Sarah Harris, Principal, Village Vance Elementary School, New Britain Connecticut

Martin Mackey, Director, REAL School, RSU 14

Ben Wilson, Assistant Principal, Oak Hill Middle School, RSU #4

#### **12:15: Lunch**

Luncheon Speaker: Ed Cervone, Executive Director, Educate Maine



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## 1:00-3:00 Innovative Programs and Practical Resources

The schedule for the afternoon sessions are listed on the next page. Different options are offered each hour, so participants can choose between two 25 minute sessions or one 55 minute session.

## 3:10-4:15 Youth Panel

Five teens will talk about their experiences and share their ideas and insight on how to support student engagement, learning and attendance in kindergarten through high school.

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**Schedule of Afternoon Sessions:** (Please see next page for description of workshops)

### 1:00 Presentations

	<b>Session Title</b>	<b>Location</b>
<b>1:00 And 1:30</b>	Data in Action: Informed Intervention Strategies	Ballroom, Table 1
	Hassle to Tassel	Ballroom, Table 5
	School-Based Attendance Progress Monitoring	Ballroom, Table 8
	Managing a Mental Health Crisis	Ballroom, Table 11
	Mentoring in Schools	Ballroom, Table 15
	Successfully Partnering with Families and Schools to Support Seamless Transitions to Kindergarten	Ballroom, Table 16
	Walking School Bus	Ballroom, Table 18
<b>1:00 to 1:55</b>	Effective Strategies to Difficult Conversations: Different Perspectives	Old Meeting Town Hall
	Restorative Practices, Family Engagement and Student Attendance in Elementary Schools	Old Meeting Town Hall

### 2:00 Presentations

	<b>Session Title</b>	<b>Location</b>
<b>2:00 And 2:30</b>	Count ME In!	Ballroom, Table 1
	Homelessness and School Attendance	Ballroom, Table 5
	Multi-Layered Approach to Support Student	Ballroom, Table 8
	Restorative Learning Program	Ballroom, Table 11
	Student Leadership Program: A Tier 3 Approach	Ballroom, Table 15
	Tools for Engaging Families	Ballroom, Table 17
<b>2:00 to 2:55</b>	Attendance Strategies* <i>(open only to schools and organizations involved with Count ME In)</i>	Old Meeting Town Hall
	Building Assets Reducing Risks (BARR)	Monhegan Room
	Restorative Practices, Family Engagement and Student Attendance in Secondary Schools	Old Meeting Town Hall



## Attendance Matters Summit: Supporting Student Success

### **Program for Afternoon Presentations**

Different options are offered each hour, so participants can choose between two 25 minute sessions OR one 55 minute session.

*(Please do not attend half of a 55 minute session and one 25 minute presentation)*

### **1:00 Sessions**

**Ballroom Presentations:** Each session will be offered at 1:00 and 1:30

#### **Data in Action: Informed Intervention Strategies**

John Dickerson will share how he uses a Google spreadsheet to track staff-, school-wide, and student-level data in real-time to inform the decision-making process of the Response to Intervention and Leadership Teams. The spreadsheet uses a dashboard to quickly illustrate trends and current levels of chronic and at-risk students. John will share how he maintains up-to-date information for a school of over 400 students. *Presenter: John Dickerson is the Assistant Principal at Hall Elementary School in Portland. John can be contacted at [dickej@portlandschools.org](mailto:dickej@portlandschools.org)*

#### **Hassle to Tassel**

It might be a hassle to stay after school to complete work, but the team from South Portland High School will describe a program that leads to a graduation tassel. The once a week after-school program provides individualized support for students to succeed and graduate. The program focuses on building relationships as well as developing individual graduation plans. They will also describe how community partners support the program. This program could be replicated in middle or high schools. *Presenters: David Brenner is the School Completion Coordinator and Kim Bennett is the Assistant Principal at South Portland High School. Curtis Chapin is the Jobs for Maine Graduates Teacher based in South Portland High School. David Brenner can be contacted [BrenneDa@spsd.org](mailto:BrenneDa@spsd.org)*

#### **Managing a Mental Health Crisis**

Leslie Mulhearn will share techniques for working with children who are anxious or acting out and also not attending school. This presentation will also illustrate how Crisis Services can partner with a school to support a family's effort towards stabilization that will allow the student to attend school. She will highlight how to develop a crisis stabilization plan, when to call the help line for mental health crisis services and the type of support available. *Presenter: Leslie Mulhearn is currently the Senior Director of Crisis, Clinic and Community-based services at Sweetser. She can be contacted at [lmulhearn@sweetser.org](mailto:lmulhearn@sweetser.org)*



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### **Mentoring in Schools**

Jane Manheimer and Becky Hayward will talk about different models of mentoring programs that have been successfully implemented within school districts including practical steps on making it effective. They will also highlight different options to collaborate with community organizations. *Presenters: Jane Manheimer is a Program Manager at Big Brothers Big Sisters of Southern Maine and Becky Hayward is a School Counselor at Village Elementary Schools in Gorham. Jane can be contacted at [Jane.Manheimer@somebigs.org](mailto:Jane.Manheimer@somebigs.org)*

### **Monitoring Attendance Interventions As A School Team**

Rick Dedeck and Helene McGaflin will describe how their school attendance/student support team effectively monitors progress and interventions for students who are at-risk or chronically absent. Strategies are based on student's needs as informed by data and conversations with students and families. The presenters will share the template they use and highlight strategies for individual students, as well as examples of before, during and after-school programs developed to engage students in their own learning. *Presenter: Rick Dedeck has been Principal at Woodside Elementary School in Topsham since 2009. Helene McGaflin has been a School Counselor for 25 years with most of her years in service at Woodside Elementary School. Rick can be contacted at [dedekr@link75.org](mailto:dedekr@link75.org) and Helene at [mcglaflinh@link75.org](mailto:mcglaflinh@link75.org)*

### **Successfully Partnering with Families and Area Schools to Support Seamless Transitions to Kindergarten**

The transition from preschool program to public school kindergarten is an important milestone for children and their families. Erica Harris and Megan Waterman will discuss how Educare connects with families and multiple area public schools to implement transition plans and share information as a means of individualizing for each child and family's needs. They will also describe how they work with families regarding school readiness and how the comprehensive approach covers cognitive and social-emotional development, general wellness, health needs and the importance of regular school attendance. *Presenters: Erica Harris, M.S. Ed., is the Master Teacher at Educare Central Maine and facilitates implementation of Educare's Model Framework, Head Start Standards and evidence-based instructional practices. Megan Waterman, M.S. Ed. is the Family Services Coordinator at Educare Central Maine supporting the coordination of services to promote school readiness and family engagement. Erica can be contacted at [ericah@kvcap.org](mailto:ericah@kvcap.org)*

### **Walking School Bus**

The walking school bus has effectively increased attendance for students who had previously been chronically absent. Kristie Clark will describe the development of the program, how they utilized data to identify students, worked with families and organized a walking school bus. *Presenter: Kristie Clarke is the Principal for Longley School in Lewiston. She can be reached at [krclark@lewistonpublicschools.org](mailto:krclark@lewistonpublicschools.org)*



## Attendance Matters Summit: Supporting Student Success

### 55 Minute Sessions in the Old Town Hall Meeting Place

#### **1:00-1:55: Effective Strategies to Difficult Conversations: Different Perspectives**

The panel will share research and practice-based tools that have been effective when approaching families or students about challenging conversations. They will use a scenario to describe how the tools can be integrated into everyday practice in school and in the community. The strategies are based on Kearny's school refusal assessment, a parenting education model and the Care model including the willing and able grid. They will provide very practical approaches to challenging situations. *Presenters: Faye Gmeiner, Instructional Support Administrator with the South Portland School Department; Sarah Paton, LCSW, Clinical Director of Outpatient and Community Services at Spurwink; Natalie Veilleux, Director of Parenting Education at the Opportunity Alliance; and facilitated by Jennifer Burns, Community Impact Director, Education at the United Way of Greater Portland*

#### **1:00-1:55: Restorative Practices, Family Engagement and Student Attendance in Elementary Schools**

The Restorative Approach is a philosophy that sees relationships as central to learning, growth and a healthy school climate for students and adults. This approach can help win the trust and cooperation of families who have challenging issues that may affect a child's attendance. Specific tools will be discussed to utilize with families around attendance issues.

*Presenter: Ansley Newton has worked as classroom teacher, school counselor and consultant for ME DOE and is now a private educational consultant with Restorative Practices of Maine. She can be contacted at [anewton@maine.rr.com](mailto:anewton@maine.rr.com)*



## Attendance Matters Summit: Supporting Student Success

### **2:00 Sessions**

The 25 minute sessions will be held in the Ballroom. The 55 minute sessions will be held in one of the two rooms in the Old Town Hall Building or the Monhegan Room.

**Ballroom Sessions:** Each presentation will be offered at 2:00 and 2:30

### **Count ME In!** with Kyle Rhoads and Susan Lieberman

Kyle Rhoads and Susan Lieberman will describe how this data-driven community-based program is addressing chronic absenteeism by using universal messaging, data, policies and protocols, training to better support children in school and in the community. They will highlight how the approach has increased teacher and family involvement to increase student engagement and attendance. *Presenters: Kyle Rhoads is Principal at Windham Primary School in RSU #14 and Susan Lieberman is Director of Count ME In. This is the third year RSU 14 has worked with Count ME in on addressing chronic absenteeism. Kyle can be reached at [krhoads@windhamraymondschools.org](mailto:krhoads@windhamraymondschools.org) and Susan at [slieberman@countmeinmaine.org](mailto:slieberman@countmeinmaine.org)*

### **Homelessness and School Attendance**

Students who are at-risk or are homeless face multiple challenges. Hannah Williams and Tara Riveria will speak about supporting students and their families who are homeless or at-risk of being homeless and how to access services and resources including homeless youth services case managers who can help families secure safe housing. *Presenter: Hannah Williams, LCSW, has directed the Homeless Youth program at Opportunity Alliance for over 10 years. Tara is presently a case manager for homeless youth having previously worked in the Boston area. She can be contacted at [hannah.williams@opportunityalliance.org](mailto:hannah.williams@opportunityalliance.org)*

### **Multi-Layered Approach to Support Students**

Matthew Houghton and Lisa Roux will highlight a series of strategies they have used to support student learning and reduce office referrals by 67%. Some of the strategies that will be highlighted include family style lunches with staff and students, restorative practices to build relationships within the classroom; professional learning communities; and student leadership teams that ensure student voice is included when planning everything from learning targets to playground. *Presenters: Matthew Houghton is presently Principal in RSU #3 at Monroe Elementary and Morse Elementary Schools. Lisa Roux is the Lead Teacher for grades 4 and 5. Matthew can be reached at [mhoughton@rsu3.org](mailto:mhoughton@rsu3.org)*



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### **Restorative Learning Program**

The Restorative Learning Program is a lean and effective program that assists students with varying barriers to gain the skills, confidence and support needed to access their education. With creative hours, transportation and staffing, RSU #14 has been able to provide this program for over 10 years, evolving to meet the needs of students who have had issues, such as medical, behavior or attendance, that have impacted their schooling. The program is valued by students, parents, teachers and the school committee for its ability to engage students in their academic and personal growth while providing a small and structured setting outside of the larger school environment. This program can be adapted to all schools K-12. *Presenter: Kelli Deveaux, Maine's 2014 Assistant Principal of the Year, is now in her 14th school year as one of Windham High School's assistant principals. Kelli can be contacted at [kdeveaux@windhamraymondschools.org](mailto:kdeveaux@windhamraymondschools.org)*

### **Student Leadership Program**

Tree Street in Lewiston worked collaboratively with Longley School in Lewiston to develop a leadership breakfast program targeting students who faced multiple challenges transitioning to school in the morning. The successful Tier III intervention program meant these students were now ready to learn, attending regularly and taking on positive leadership roles. Julia Sleeper, the director of Tree Street, will also highlight how these student leaders played a key role to motivate other students to attend the summer program. *Presenter: Julia Sleeper, Director, developed the Tree Street Youth Center whose mission is to support the youth of Lewiston-Auburn through academics, the arts and athletics while providing a safe space that encourages healthy physical, social, emotional, and academic development while building unity across lines of difference. Julia can be contacted at [juliarsleeper@gmail.com](mailto:juliarsleeper@gmail.com)*

### **Tools for Engaging Families**

The Family Plan is a tool used in Family Team Meetings to help highlight family strengths, challenges/needs, and map out a plan that the family and the team agree on together. Natalie and Abby will discuss when this tool can be used, why it is helpful in meetings for both parents and schools/service providers/etc., and how to use it in a meeting with families. *Presenters: Abby Alfred is the Project Coordinator of the Community Partnerships for Protecting Children in Southern Maine, which includes the Parents as Partners program. Natalie Veilleux is Director of Parenting Education at the Opportunity Alliance with many years of experience working with complex families and systems in schools and social service organizations. They can be reached at [Abigail.Alfred@cppcmaine.org](mailto:Abigail.Alfred@cppcmaine.org) and [natalie.veilleux@opportunityalliance.org](mailto:natalie.veilleux@opportunityalliance.org)*



## Attendance Matters Summit: Supporting Student Success

### Sessions in the Old Town Hall Meeting Place

**2:00-2:55: Attendance Strategies** (*This session is only open to schools and organizations presently working with Count ME In*)

What does it take to reduce chronic absence? During this session, participants will have a chance to hear in more depth how Vance Village Elementary School in New Britain Connecticut has taken a comprehensive, data driven, tiered approach to reducing chronic absence. This session will also provide participants an opportunity to begin assessing how well their own practices reflect a tiered approach to intervention that starts with universal prevention. *Presenters: Hedy Chang is the Director of Attendance Works. Sarah Harris has been Principal at Vance Village Elementary School in New Britain, Connecticut for over 5 years. In the last two years they cut their chronic absentee rate in half.*

**2:00-2:55: Restorative Practices, Family Engagement and Student Attendance in Secondary Schools**

The Restorative Approach is a philosophy that sees relationships as central to learning, growth and a healthy school climate for students and adults. This approach can help us win the trust and cooperation of families who have challenging issues that may affect a child's attendance. Specific tools will be discussed to utilize with families around attendance issues.

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### Session in Monhegan Room

**2:00-2:55: Building Assets Reducing Risks (BARR) for Middle and High Schools**

Building Assets Reducing Risks (BARR), an evidenced-based education model proven to increase student achievement and teacher effectiveness with middle and high school students. The presentation will provide an overview of the model and highlight how Maine schools are implementing the model with significant increases in academic achievement. The BARR model combines weekly analysis of student data with student asset building and intensive teacher-to-teacher as well as teacher-to-student collaboration. Through an Investing in Innovation (i3) project, funds are available to support training and coaching in this model for additional middle and high schools in Maine for the 2016-18 school years. *Presenters: Janice Eldridge is the BARR Coordinator in MSAD #60 at both Noble Middle School and Noble High School. Josh Tripp is Principal in RSU # 25 at Bucksport Middle School. Susan Savell is Co-Director of the I3 BARR grant and from Spurwink.*



# Attendance Matters Summit: Supporting Student Success

## School Districts, Preschool Programs, Community Organizations Participating with Count ME In

**MSAD 61**

**RSU 14**

**Gorham School Department**

**MSAD 51**

**MSAD 57**

**Portland Public Schools (Hall, Ocean Ave and Reiche Elementary Schools)**

**Catherine Morrill Day Nursery**

**Opportunity Alliance Head Start and Early Childhood Programs**

**St. Elizabeth's Child Development Center**

**Big Brothers Big Sisters of Southern Maine**

**Providence Human Services**

**Sweetser**

**MSAD 75**

**South Portland School Department**

**Lewiston Public Schools**

**MSAD 55**

**Auburn School Department**

**Youth and Family Outreach**

**Opportunity Alliance**

**Spurwink**

**Tri County Mental Health Services**



# Attendance Matters Summit: Supporting Student Success

**Thanks to Funders for their Support for Count ME In:**



**The Betterment Fund**

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## Count ME In

**Thanks Representatives from the following Districts and Organizations for their support on the Count ME In Leadership Team and State Advisory Committee**

**MSAD 75**

**Big Brothers Big Sisters of Southern Maine**

**South Portland School Department**

**MSAD 61**

**Sweetser**

**Corsello Consulting**

**United Way of York County**

**Gorham School Department**

**United Way of Greater Portland**

**Educate Maine**

**Maine Department of Education**

**Maine Department of Health and Human Services**

**Maine Principal's Association**

**Maine Children's Alliance**