

CASDA EdCasts Episode 5

Tackling Chronic Absenteeism

In this month's EdCast episode, CASDA's Rebecca Gardner sat down with Dr. Antonio "Tiney" Abitabile, principal of Hudson High School, Brian Bishop, assistant principal of Averill Park High School, and Andrew Kourt, principal at Walter B. Howard Elementary School to discuss strategies to engage students and promote attendance.



Download the podcast here or by visiting www.casdany.org/podcast.

Additional resources that take a look at the reasons for missing school, the parental role in absenteeism, and the effects on fellow students include:

- **"Youths' Perspectives on the Reasons Underlying School Truancy and Opportunities to Improve School Attendance"** - This qualitative study draws upon extensive interviews with students with a history of chronic absenteeism to better understand their reasons for missing school. Additionally, it seeks their input on recommendations to help schools improve student engagement and promote attendance.
- **"Reducing Student Absenteeism in the Early Grades by Targeting Parental Beliefs"** - This research article published in the American Educational Research Journal explores the efficacy of parent-focused attendance interventions for students in elementary school.
- **"Chronic Absenteeism in the Classroom Context: Effects on Achievement"** - Michael Gottfried's article (Urban Education, 2019) utilizes descriptive statistics to demonstrate a link between chronic absenteeism and the achievement of their non-chronically absent classmates. He finds that the effect is approximately the same size as the free lunch recipient/non-recipient test gap and slightly smaller than the gender test gap.

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Part of building that culture piece is changing our schools so that they become more relative, and students connect to them better. We need to change school from being a chore to something they want to do."

- Brian Bishop, assistant principal
Averill Park High School