**INVITATION TO APPLY TO PRESENT AT THE**

***Every Student, Every Day National Conference:***

***Eliminating Chronic Absenteeism by Implementing and Strengthening Cross-Sector Systems of Support for All Students***

*June 8-10, 2016, Washington, DC*

The U.S. Department of Education (ED), in collaboration with the U.S. Departments of Health and Human Services (HHS), Housing and Urban Development (HUD), and Justice (DOJ), invites interested federal, state, and local agencies, school districts, schools, nonprofit, labor, philanthropic, community-based, and research organizations, and other parties to submit applications to present at the ***Every Student, Every Day National Conference: Eliminating Chronic Absenteeism by Implementing and Strengthening Cross-Sector Systems of Support for All Students***, animportant national meeting on effective chronic absenteeism policy and practice. ED has invited teams of states, school districts, early learning programs, and cross-sector (education, health, housing, and justice) system leaders to the national conference **on June 8-10, 2016, in Washington, DC.**

**Federal Chronic Absenteeism Guidance**

**October 7, 2015**

**Action Step 1:  Generate and act on absenteeism data.** Prioritize the development of early warning prevention and intervention systems that identify students who are, or are at risk of becoming, chronically absent before they miss enough school that it is nearly impossible for them to catch up. Data from such systems should be shared—in a manner consistent with applicable State law and the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA)—between school districts and other key public and private organizations to ensure coordinated systems of support for students who are chronically absent.

**Action Step 2:  Create and deploy positive messages and measures.**Focus on developing positive messages for youth and families as well as implementing supportive engagement strategies. For instance, these strategies may include mentoring, counseling, and creating safe and supportive school climates through approaches such as Positive Behavior Interventions and Supportsto improve students' attendance at, connection to, and success in school. Punitive messages and measures are often ineffective and can lead to disproportionate suspensions and expulsions from school and inappropriate referrals of students and families to law enforcement.

**Action Step 3:  Focus communities on addressing chronic absenteeism.**  Launch local initiatives to raise public awareness about the causes and effects of chronic absenteeism, including awareness among families and youth. Prioritize training within communities and across sectors to conduct root-cause analyses of local absenteeism trends.  Implement research and evidence-based strategies and programs—such as *Check & Connect*—that effectively engage and support students who are, or are at risk of becoming, chronically absent.

**Action Step 4:  Ensure responsibility across sectors.** Regularly communicate that chronic absenteeism is a problem that affects the whole community, not just those students who are chronically absent and their families. Drive and evaluate cross-sector performance, at least in part, based on that principle. Education, health, housing, and justice system leaders should work together to ensure shared accountability within and across sectors to successfully address the local, underlying causes of chronic absenteeism. <http://www2.ed.gov/policy/elsec/guid/secletter/151007.html>

The purpose of the ***Every Student, Every Day National Conference*** is to support states, local school districts, schools, and communities in their work to develop effective chronic absenteeism policy and practice. In particular, the conference will showcase how schools—with the support of their states, local school districts, and communities—can address the root causes of chronic absenteeism through **sustainable, multi-tiered, cross-sector early warning and response systems** that link students to important and necessary, cross-sector interventions, programs, and preventative services.

The conference will also focus participating state teams—which will include state education officials, cross-sector system leaders, local school district leaders, early learning providers, and other partners—on chronic absenteeism guidance (see textbox) issued by ED, HHS, HUD, and DOJ that can help inform effective chronic absenteeism policy and practice that support all our students to attend school daily and succeed in school and in life.

For more information about the ***Every Student, Every Day*** initiative, please visit <http://www2.ed.gov/about/inits/ed/chronicabsenteeism/index.html>.

**Purpose of Conference Workshops**

Conference workshops will address **one or more of the Federal Chronic Absenteeism Guidance Action Steps** (outlined above),and connect participants with research and evidence-based policies and practices that support the design, implementation, evaluation, and capacity-building of multi-tiered, cross-sector systems of support to link chronically absent students and their families with education (from early learning through grade 12), health, housing, and/or justice-related interventions, programs, and preventative services. These **interactive workshops** should also allow for the sharing of best practices, reflection, networking, and other methods that support adult learning among participants. **Workshops are 75 minutes in length.**

**Workshop Selection Criteria**

The conference planning committee will select workshop proposals that address one or more of the Federal Chronic Absenteeism Guidance Action Steps (see textbox on page one), promote effective approaches to addressing chronic absenteeism (particularly those that have data demonstrating impact on attendance), and are likely to support effective cross-sector state, local, and/or school-based chronic absenteeism policy and practice. Moreover, workshops should promote sharing among participants, reflection, interaction, and other methods that support effective adult learning.

We will select workshop proposals that will allow the conference to:

* Showcase a variety of approaches to addressing chronic absenteeism in school- and community-based settings with a particular focus on cross-sector efforts that address students and families’ education, health, housing, and justice-related needs.
* Share strategies to address geographical diversity.
* Share strategies that apply to different age groups and demographics.
* Share policies and practices that are research and evidence-based.
* Incorporate principles of youth development.
* Incorporate approaches that enhance protective factors to promote the well-being of children.
* Stress the importance of creating and sustaining welcoming and healthy schools and early learning program environments that engage and support all students and families to be partners in addressing and eliminating chronic absenteeism.

**Applying to Present at the National Conference**

For more information about the workshop application process or to submit your completed conference workshop application (see attached), please email Lesley Robinson at [lesley.robinson@ed.gov](mailto:lesley.robinson@ed.gov) **no later than Friday, April 15, 2016.**

Thank you for your interest in supporting the ***Every Student, Every Day National Conference: Eliminating Chronic Absenteeism by Implementing and Strengthening Cross-Sector Systems of Support for All Students*.**

**Remember, all workshop applications are due no later than**

**Friday, April 15, 2016.**

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*June 8-10, 2016, Washington, DC*

Thank you for your interest in presenting a workshop at the ***Every Student, Every Day National Conference***. Please send completed applications to Lesley Robinson at [lesley.robinson@ed.gov](mailto:lesley.robinson@ed.gov) **no later than Friday, April 15, 2016**. Please also reach out with any questions about this application and/or the conference workshop application process.

1. Agency/organization:
2. Contact information (address, phone and e-mail):
3. Title of the proposed workshop:
4. Brief workshop summary of no more than 100 words:
5. Learning objectives and key topics covered:
6. Target audience for the workshop (e.g. state education officials, cross-sector leaders, local superintendents or local senior leaders, nonprofit partners, etc.):
7. Workshop presenters and/or panelists (please include presenter/panelist biographies):
8. Additionally, please provide the following information:
   1. Detailed workshop agenda (please note: Include no more than 30 minutes of direct presentation and provide opportunities for questions, interaction, reflection, and state and local plan development).
   2. Which Federal Chronic Absenteeism Guidance Action Steps the workshop addresses.
   3. How the presentation promotes elements of effective, cross-sector early warning and response systems, policies, and practices.
   4. Any available data about the impact of the practices or policies showcased on reducing chronic absence.
   5. Draft presentation slides or materials, if available. **Final drafts of all presentation materials will be due by Friday, May 6, 2016**.