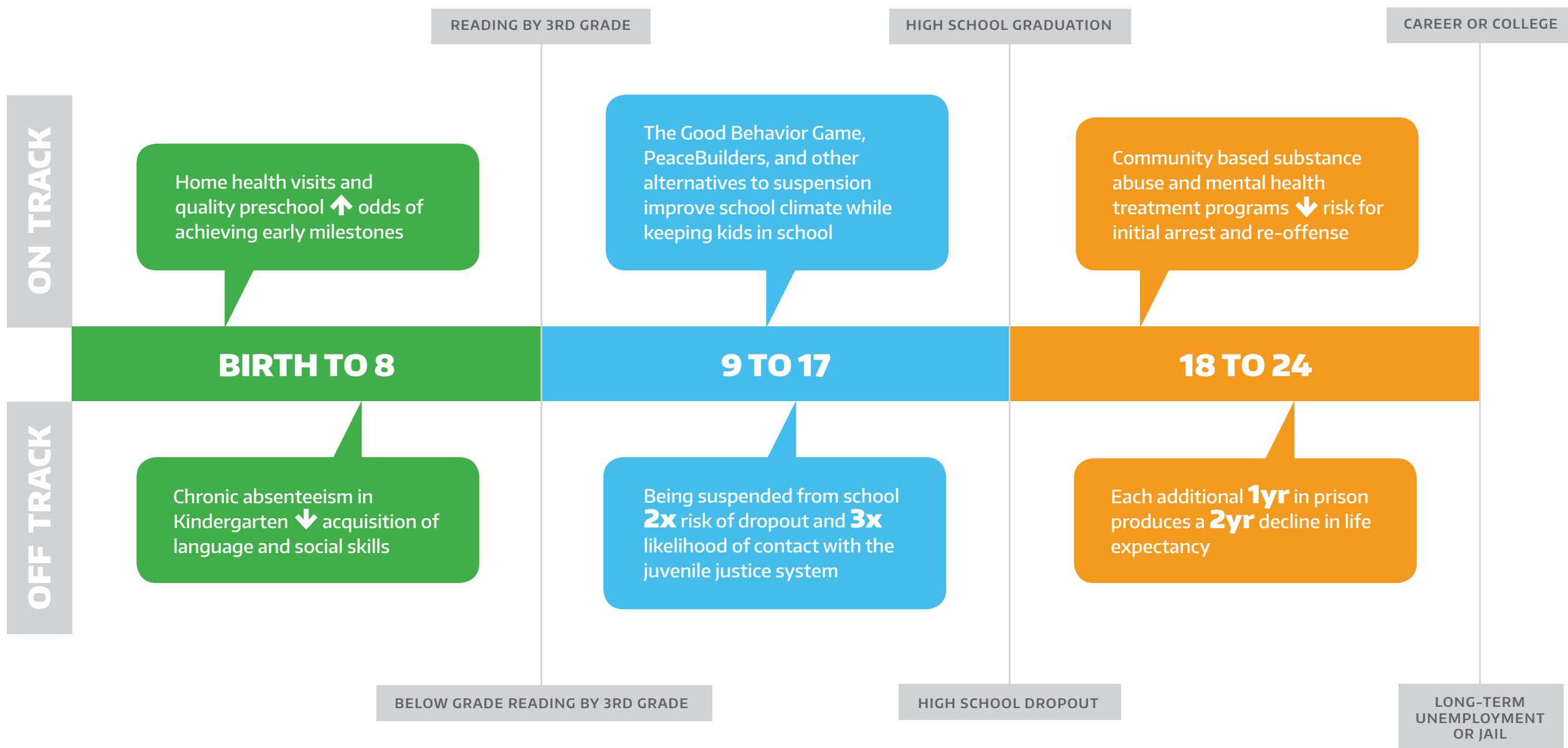




KIDS ON TRACK: AN EARLY WARNING SYSTEM



Solutions Guide:

MILESTONES FOR A SAFE & HEALTHY LIFE AND INTERVENTIONS TO BREAK THE SCHOOL-TO-PRISON PIPELINE

Childhood and adolescence are key developmental periods in life. A healthy start can put young people on the right path for success in education, career, and family. But when things go off-track, it can be difficult to recover. Research suggests that achieving three important milestones are especially essential:

- Entering Kindergarten ready to learn
- Attending school regularly, avoiding absence, truancy and suspension
- Avoiding arrest, incarceration and other involvement with the criminal justice system.

This document suggest several resources for Attorneys General interested in learning more about helping young people achieve these key milestones.

Entering Kindergarten Ready to Learn

Home visits by nurses and community health workers have been proven to prevent child abuse and reduce the risk that children served will be arrested as adults.

- Peter Greenwood, "Prevention and Intervention Programs for Juvenile Offenders," The Future of Children, Vol. 18, No. 2, Fall 2008. Available online at www.FutureOfChildren.org.

Quality preschool programs reduce drop-out rates and lifetime risk for arrest.

- Lawrence Schweinhart, et. al., *The High/Scope Perry Preschool Study, 2005*. Available online at www.HighScope.org.

Third grade reading matters.

- Studies shows that third grade reading proficiency is the most important predictor of high school graduation and career success. Learn more online at www.GradeLevelReading.net.

Attending School Regularly, Avoiding Absence, Truancy and Suspension

School attendance is influenced by many factors, including health, family and community supports, student behavior, and interactions with the criminal justice system.

- The California Dropout Research Project, based at the University of California, Santa Barbara, offers a wealth of research about the drivers of school attendance and the causes of dropout. Available online at <http://www.cdrp.ucsb.edu>.

High suspension rates do not improve classroom environments or increase academic achievement.

- American Psychological Association Zero Tolerance Task Force, "Are Zero Tolerance Policies Effective in the Schools?" *American Psychologist*, 2008. Available online at <https://www.apa.org/pubs/info/reports/zero-tolerance.pdf>.

Alternatives to suspension that teach students good behavior while keeping them in school work better. They create calmer classrooms, increase achievement, and reduce risk for drug abuse and violent behavior.

- See, for example, Kellam, et. al., "The Good Behavior Game and the Future of Prevention and Treatment," *Addiction Science and Clinical Practice*, July 2011.

Avoid Arrest, Incarceration, and Other Involvement with the Criminal Justice System

Juvenile incarceration increases risk for future arrest and criminal behavior.

- Akiva Liberman, et. al., "Labeling Effects of First Juvenile Arrests: Secondary Deviance and Secondary Sanctioning," The Urban Institute, February 2014, available online at www.urban.org.