ALLENDALE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
CASE STUDY

Pittsfield Public School District Snapshot

- Pittsfield Public School District, Pittsfield, Massachusetts (5,464 students, 12 schools)
- Rural Public School District (North Western Massachusetts)
- 44.4% Economically disadvantaged students
- 4.6% English language learners
- 20.3% Students with disabilities
- 18.8% District chronic absenteeism rate

Allendale Elementary School Snapshot

- K-5 Elementary School
- Public School
- 291 Students
- 51.2% Economically disadvantaged students
- 7.9% English language learners
- 7.9% Students with disabilities
- Average class size- 16.7 children
- 16.7 to 1 Student/Teacher Ratio
- 9.4% Chronic Absenteeism rate
Allendale Elementary School

Pittsfield Public School’s mission statement is clear: We strive to serve our community and its children by creating an environment where lifelong learning is valued, excellence is expected, and improvement is continuous. We will do this by meeting the needs of each student and providing the understanding, encouragement, support, knowledge and skills each require to meet or exceed the district’s high expectations and rigorous academic expectations.

Challenges

The administration at Allendale Elementary School, a small elementary school, located in rural Pittsfield Public School District in north west Massachusetts, is looking for a new strategy and intervention management platform that could help with student chronic absenteeism issues they are facing. With many education technology products available it is important to find one that could meet the school and districts vision of reducing chronic absenteeism in a meaningful way. This includes helping educators build and implement successful intervention campaigns without adding a tremendous amount of daily work to their already full plate.

Solution

Allendale Elementary turns to AllHere as the most complete, easy to implement, and powerful attendance intervention management platform to manage their attendance campaigns. AllHere helps educators and administrators to understand which students are at-risk for chronic absenteeism, streamline the process of building intervention campaigns, and understand the results of each campaign.

The school’s administration and staff see the benefits of a program like AllHere:

- Educators and administrators can monitor student absenteeism, giving a greater sense of efficacy during the intervention campaigns
- AllHere is one of the few programs that offers ongoing training and support. This includes supporting educators in using the platform to fidelity, as well as showing users how to easily generate impact reports so that the administration and staff know which campaigns are working and which are not. In addition, AllHere helps identify and design intervention campaigns that help reach students who are at-risk for chronic absenteeism based on specific root causes
- AllHere helps the school’s administrators make sure that the program fits into all existing mandates and requirements within the district

5 Challenges of K-12 Chronic Absenteeism Programs for Principals and Schools

- Resistance to new technology and pushback from educators who are overwhelmed by the idea of having to layer on a new, time consuming program
- Overwhelmed by the number of products available with little understanding of their impact on student chronic absenteeism
- Difficulty in implementing programs to fidelity without proper training at the beginning and lack of consistent support throughout implementation for all users
- Absence of support to build effective chronic absenteeism interventions and data to analyze the results of each intervention campaign
- Program utilization and student outcome data that is not readily accessible in easy to read reports that are available for sharing with stakeholders
Implementation

New district-wide mandates now require educators and staff at Allendale Elementary School to support students facing chronic absenteeism through family outreach. The new responsibilities, and the use of additional EdTech platform, had the potential to receive pushback from the educators. Therefore, it was important to the administration at the school to have buy-in for any new technology being implemented school-wide. In addition, it was critical for a smooth implementation process where educators would receive the support they need to begin using the new platform for managing interventions to fidelity. Like many school staffs, the Allendale educators had been through many new initiatives that came and went, and other software solutions that did not fully meet the needs of the end users.

Since AllHere is easy to implement and the impact reports provide powerful data, the staff adopted the new initiative successfully with few issues. The ongoing support provided by the AllHere team helps assure everyone that the district could build its capacity to intervene with chronically absent students in an effective and efficient manner.

Results

In a similar way, PPSD’s implementation of AllHere worked to answer vital questions related to chronic absenteeism:

- Are educators implementing best practices for working with chronically absent students? When working with families?
- Are they critically evaluating their interventions for impact implications?

In partnership with AllHere, PPSD created a systematic workflow of implementing, evaluating, and sharing chronic absenteeism intervention programs, focusing on student and educator program use. By building a community of practice around selecting the most appropriate intervention for students and centrally monitoring each student’s interventions, PPSD has created a strong culture of strategic practices for improving student attendance. PPSD utilizes AllHere as its system of record for chronic absenteeism interventions and understanding of program usage through AllHere.

For more information, details, or to set-up your own comprehensive chronic absenteeism intervention management system visit www.AllHere.com.