

#### LOCAL INSIGHTS

## SCHOOL ATTENDANCE AND SCHOOL CLIMATE COMMITTEES

- Largest concern: awareness
- Lack of partner participation
- No dedicated funding or staffing
- No sample documents, no governing body for guidance
- Similar committees with similar staffing (truancy, CHINs)





# CHRONIC ABSENTEEISM: WHAT'S COUNTED?

- Excused absences
- Unexcused absences
- Out of School Suspension

#### WHAT'S MISSING?

- Enrollment Denials
- Enrollment Disputes
- Recommended "Pick-ups"
- Transportation (Alternative School & McKinney Vento)
- Drop Outs
- Expulsions
- Remote / Virtual Learning



#### ALL FORMS OF ABSENTEEISM:

#### ROOT CAUSES

- Bullying
- Mental health concerns
- Lack of positive role models
- Poor school climate & highly punitive disciplinary policies
- Transportation (alternative school)
- Unstable housing
- Absenteeism itself (still a factor in long-term suspension decisions)

### GEORGIA APPLESEED Center for Law & Justice

#### IMPACTS

- Learning loss
- Graduation rates
- Criminal justice system involvement
- Poverty
- Health issues
- Weakens social support network
- Negative impact on Georgia's workforce and economy

#### LEGISLATION AND FUNDING

#### RECOMMENDATIONS

- <u>SASCCs</u>: Provide dedicated funding to Council of Juvenile Court Judges or other guiding body to develop resource repository, sample documents, and awareness campaign.
- <u>Discipline</u>: Amend 20-2-690.1(c)(4) to remove "solely," and to expand "expulsion" to all disciplinary proceedings.
- <u>School Climate:</u> Invest in positive school climate through for 1-2 star rated schools, and additional RESA staffing & funding.
- <u>Transportation</u>: Strengthen investment in school transportation to provide routes for students, including for children attending alternative schools and those experiencing unstable housing.
- Record Sharing / Remote Learning: Clarify record-sharing and remote-learning requirements in HB 268.





