

The Impact of Chronic Absence

When **7 million** students

7 million students nationwide are chronically absent each year.

miss **10%** of the school year

These students miss 10% of the school year or more from absences or suspensions.

All students miss out.

When schools have high levels of chronic absence, it is harder for all students to learn.

How Playworks Supports Attendance

Playworks increases safe and healthy play

Children feel safe, engaged, and empowered

Recess conflict and bullying decrease

More children enjoy school and want to attend consistently

School leaders can give more attention to the most at-risk

RAND: Playworks impacts 5 school climate indicators

1. Bullying
2. Inclusiveness
3. Student ownership of recess activities
4. Student safety
5. Student use of positive language



A RAND Corporation review (2017) found that the Playworks Coach service has a statistically significant impact on five school climate indicators and is one of only a few social and emotional learning programs to show “strong evidence” of impact under ESSA guidelines. Several other Playworks services also meet one of the four ESSA levels of evidence; all are based on the Playworks theory of change.

Stanford: Playworks reduces chronic absenteeism and increases attendance

An independent evaluation by Stanford University (2015) found that the Playworks Coach service led to a statistically significant increase in attendance among elementary school children. That increase was greatest among chronically absent students.

“Before we started with Playworks and began focusing on safety, our chronic absence rate hovered at 12 to 15 percent. Last year, we ended at about 4 to 5 percent.”

—Principal DeMar of Loma Linda Elementary implemented Playworks Coach as part of a holistic approach to attendance.