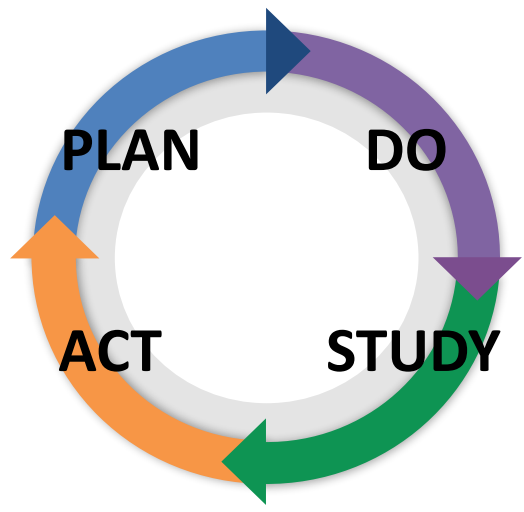


9th Grade Passport to Success: A Relationship-Driven, Incentive-Based Attendance

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Problem Statement

High rates of **9th-grade** chronic absenteeism reduce instructional continuity, weaken student-teacher relationships, and increase the risk of course failure and graduation rate.

PLAN

To address the challenge of chronic absenteeism in the 9th grade, the plan implements a **Connection-First philosophy** that replaces traditional punitive measures with a model centered on **student agency and belonging**. This strategy utilizes the **9th Grade Passport to Success**, an initiative where students earn choice-based learning flexibility through consistent attendance and receive dedicated adult/peer mentorship using the **2x10 strategy** to build trust.

ACT

- **Changes & Adjustments:** Implement an **automated early-warning system** with a dynamic diagnostic matrix to flag absences at the 10% and 20% thresholds immediately.
- **Decision: ADOPT and Scale.** Roll out the pilot interventions to the entire 9th-grade team to make the Connection-First philosophy a standard classroom culture.

Key Results

- The innovation successfully transformed attendance data into actionable interventions, helping move the majority of the pilot cohort toward a Healthy Presence.
- The attendance streak tracker connected to an incentive based act, motivated students to attend school.

Lessons Learned

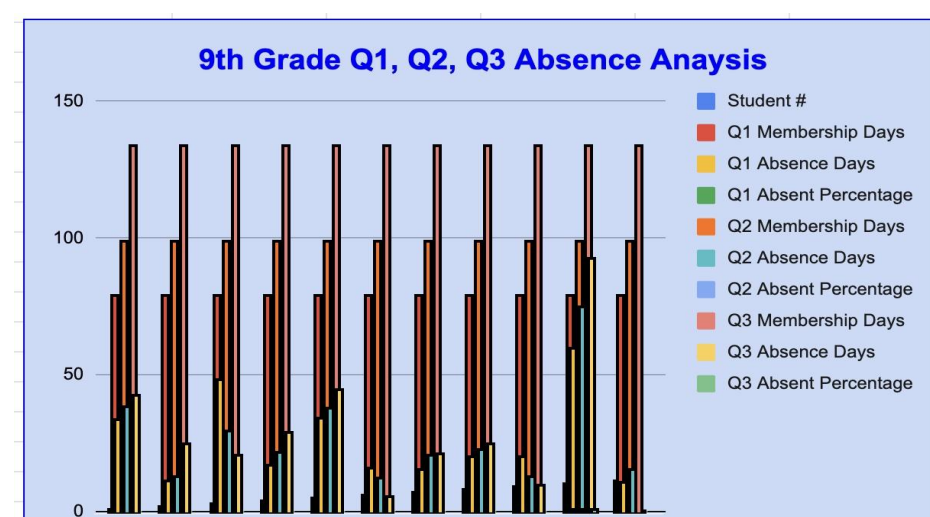
- **What Worked Well:** The **2x10 strategy** was a low-cost, high-impact tool for re-engaging disconnected students.
- **Improvement Areas:** Need for refined One-Page Recap templates for peer bundles and more intensive, individualized triage" for severe chronic outliers like Student 10.

DO

- **Observations:** Students with inconsistent attendance often disengage early due to academic gaps; however, they respond positively when expectations are paired with choice and autonomy.
- **Adjustments & Actions:**
 - Implemented the **2x10 Strategy**: Spending two minutes daily for ten days building non-academic relationships with students.
 - Introduced **Fresh Start rules** to reduce return-to-school anxiety after absences.
 - Utilized **What You Missed Peer Bundles**(Vibe Bundles) to facilitate academic catch-up through peer support.
- **Challenges:** Ensuring consistent mentor participation and maintaining equity so all students can earn flexibility despite external barriers.

STUDY

- **Data Collected:** Weekly Average Daily Attendance (ADA), percentage of students with 5+ absences, and mentor participation logs.
- **Results:**
 - **Exceeded SMART Goal:** Achieved a **12% aggregate increase** in attendance during the pilot month, surpassing the 10% target.
 - **Individual Progress:** By Q3, **8 out of 11 students** in the high-need cohort successfully decreased their absence percentages.
 - **Breakthroughs:** Student 1 cut their absence rate by more than half (from 42.41% in Q1 to 31.72% in Q3).



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