

TalkingPoints Universal Family Engagement Platform decreased student absence rates by 15-24%

Quasi-experimental causal studies highlight the impact of effective family-school partnerships in improving student attendance

The challenge

Student absenteeism has long been a major concern for schools and districts. High absenteeism can lead to learning loss, widened achievement gaps, and increased risks of poverty, poor health, and diminished well-being for students. During the pandemic, absenteeism rates are estimated to have almost doubled, affecting one in three students. Many districts continue to grapple with attendance challenges.

Study approach

In partnership with two school districts, TalkingPoints conducted quasi-experimental studies to analyze district student administrative data to see how using the TalkingPoints platform impacted absenteeism rates. Researchers applied statistical techniques to weight the samples by demographics to ensure comparable student groups. In both studies, researchers found that using TalkingPoints led to statistically significant improvements in attendance rates, resulting in increased learning hours for students.

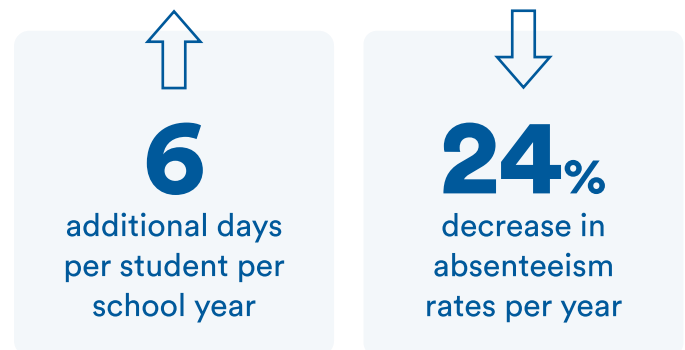
Key Takeaways

Student attendance has long been a critical focus for schools and districts. When students miss school, they fall behind academically and contribute to widening achievement gaps. These two studies show the impact of TalkingPoints in harnessing the power of effective family-school partnerships to improve student attendance. Further, research demonstrates that effective family engagement practices can significantly impact other student outcomes, such as student behavior, well-being, and academics.

Research outcomes: Tulsa Public Schools

In Tulsa Public Schools, use of TalkingPoints led to:

- An average **24% decrease in absenteeism rates** across all grades with sufficient sample sizes (K-5, 7).
- **Greater gains for Spanish-speaking students** as compared to their English-speaking peers.
- Extrapolating attendance increases to the entire school year would mean an average gain of **six additional days in school per student**.



Research outcomes: Large, urban district

In another large, urban school district, use of TalkingPoints resulted in:

- An average **15% decrease in absenteeism rates** for all students
- **17-25% decreases** in absenteeism rates for **traditionally underserved student groups**

