



Department of Education

Mike DeWine, Governor
Dr. Stephanie K. Siddens, Interim Superintendent of Public Instruction

To: Ohio Superintendents
Date: February 17, 2022
Subject: New Student Engagement Program — Available Now

The Ohio Department of Education, in partnership with Graduation Alliance and the Ohio Educational Service Center Association, is announcing a new program funded with federal COVID relief funds to support K-12 students who are chronically absent or struggling in school. ENGAGE Ohio helps districts offer additional support to students who are struggling due to the pandemic without adding extra burden to teaching and support staff.

This program is available to school districts and community schools at no cost. When districts opt in, students will receive free one-on-one support to help them manage the academic and social-emotional barriers preventing them from reaching their highest potential in school.

The goal of ENGAGE Ohio is to:

- Reach students as fast as possible;
- Identify their academic and social-emotional barriers;
- Provide them individualized ongoing coaching support; and
- Stabilize and improve their attendance and academic performance.

The past few years have been exceptionally challenging for educators across our state. Though students are largely back in school, 34,000 students have not re-engaged. Additionally, 24% of all students missed 10% or more of the 2020-2021 school year, and 11% of all students missed 20% or more of the same year — an increase of 7% and 6% respectively from pre-pandemic levels.

ENGAGE Ohio is a program that helps districts offer additional support to students who are struggling due to the pandemic without adding extra burden to teaching and support staff.

This support program is available through the end of the 2022-2023 school year. ENGAGE Ohio uses a team of experienced academic success coaches to:

- Deploy a multi-channel outreach strategy to reach students who are disengaged, chronically absent or struggling in school;
- Identify and mitigate the obstacles preventing consistent engagement;
- Provide academic resources and motivational support to help students continue learning and earning credit toward graduation;
- Provide on-demand support for students who are quarantined due to COVID-19.

To opt in to this program, visit EngageOhio.GraduationAlliance.com or email EngageOH@graduationalliance.com. Please provide contact information for the

district's point of contact and data coordinator and share a rough estimate of the number of students the district plans to refer to ENGAGE Ohio.

To learn more, attend an information session about ENGAGE Ohio. Register for any of the following sessions [here](#).

- Thursday, Feb. 17 - 9 a.m. EST
- Tuesday, Feb. 22 - 12:30 p.m. EST
- Thursday, Feb. 24 - 10 a.m. EST
- Friday, Feb. 25 - 9 a.m. EST

Contact the Office of Whole Child Supports at the Ohio Department of Education with questions at wholechild@education.ohio.gov.