

# attendance **MATTERS** PROGRESS REPORT

Attendance Matters was launched in 2013 with the goal to reduce student absences by two days. United Way of Benton & Franklin Counties leads this community-wide initiative in partnership with support from local schools, organizations, and businesses. Data has shown the following progress\*:



Student absences decreased by an average of two days.



Students who missed more than 10 days dropped by 985.



The number of students with perfect attendance increased from 88 to 103.



Absences can directly affect a student's performance. Grades improve as absences decrease.

## SUCCESS STORIES FROM SCHOOLS & STUDENTS

### → Ochoa Middle School reports:

"It was very exciting to compare our data from last year to this year. Unofficially, we had 237 students with perfect attendance in December 2013 and 408 in 2014. Similarly, we went from 225 students with perfect attendance in January 2014 and 361 in January 2015. Our students are definitely responding to the Attendance Matters initiative!"

### → An Enterprise Middle School student shared:

"I was extremely excited when our Vice Principal delivered a Dairy Queen Blizzard to me for my improved attendance. Because my attendance improved, I earned a better grade in math class and moved to a higher level course! Attendance really does matter."

### → Carmichael Middle School implemented an attendance buddy system and one student said:

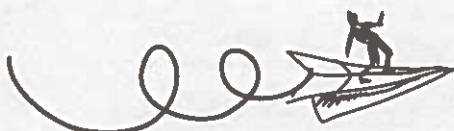
"It's easier for me to go to school when I know my friends are waiting for me and they get upset when I don't come. Now my grades are better and I even have 2 A's."



### → Kiona-Benton Middle School reported incentives and positive messages were helping motivate students to attend school.

### → Desert Hills Middle School reported over 40% of students had perfect attendance (including no tardies) in both September and October of this school year.

\* Attendance data was compared for the Kennewick, Pasco, and Richland School Districts for 2012-2013 and 2013-2014 school years.



## MOVING FORWARD

- United Way will continue to lead the Attendance Matters community-wide initiative with direct engagement of 15 local middle schools.
- Student tardiness will be an additional focus in the next phase.

- Increased outreach to chronically absent students/families will be implemented.
- Strategies to expand to elementary and high schools will be included in future planning.



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