

Chronic Absenteeism and Truancy System Map

Student attendance in school is a complex educational issue that requires an understanding of several perspectives, policies, and research reports. The Chronic Absenteeism and Truancy System Map is a visual tool that aims to:

1. **Illustrate the complexities of chronic absenteeism** as it relates to students attending public and public charter schools in D.C.
2. **Avoid siloes** of information and duplicative work across education agencies
3. **Identify areas of overlap and partnership** between agencies, organizations, and other key partners in D.C.

This guide introduces the different elements of the Chronic Absenteeism and Truancy System Map, how to navigate it, and interpret relationships between its different components.

System Map Elements	Element Content & Descriptions
Cards: Contain ideas, people, institutions, or actions	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Solutions: Lists research-backed strategies used by schools and the wider school system to improve attendance rates of students• Problem: Details local and national attendance rates, reasons for chronic absenteeism/truancy, and the consequences of chronic absenteeism for both students and educators• Key Agency/Organizations: Lists local and national agencies/organizations tied to research and policy• Research/Reports: Ties published attendance reports to the organizations and agencies that published them; includes gaps in local research on attendance• Legislation and Policy Actions: Connects and identifies overlap between D.C. Council bills, SBOE resolutions, and OSSE policies with categorical actions (e.g., enhancing safety, redefining excused absence)
Connections: Links cards to show relationships, dependencies, or processes	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Arrows: Signifies an impact certain behaviors, conditions, or policies have on attendance• Lines: Connects research, policies, recommendations or actions to bills, agencies, organizations, and other sources
Perspectives: Filters points of views on each card	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Eye icons: Filters cards to a specific point of view/perspective:<ul style="list-style-type: none">◦ Parent/guardian (orange)◦ School/educator (red)◦ Student (green)◦ Government/agency/organization (blue)• Colored Dots: Signifies which perspective is included; there can be one or multiple dots per card; each color dot matches the perspective above

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Navigating the System Map

The Chronic Absenteeism and Truancy System Map is **dynamic**. That means you can change the map's appearance by clicking, scrolling, zooming in/out, and hovering over elements of the map (see page 1).



Hovering

- Highlight cards and the arrows/lines that connect different cards by hovering your mouse pointer over map elements
- *Example:* Hovering over a card in the “DC Government Bills” card will highlight arrows pointing to one or more of its related actions; hovering over a card in the “Action” card will point back to one or more bills, showing similarities/overlaps of those bills

Zooming

- Make text bigger or smaller by using a mouse or touchpad
- You can use the zoom tool at the bottom right of the screen to center/zoom in or out
- *Tip:* Zoom all the way out to get the big picture of the system map



Panning

- Move to different areas of the map by holding down the space bar and clicking/moving your mouse

Clicking

- Underlined text signifies links that you can click on and be directed to corresponding websites
- Clicking the eye icon on the left side of the map allows you to choose perspectives. This filters cards and connections
- *Example:* Click the student perspective (green eye) to highlight only the cards with green dots and any arrows connected to those dots; this gives you a sense of how students may view chronic absenteeism and the policies/environment that impacts their attendance



<https://bit.ly/CATsystemmap>

Maintaining the Chronic Absenteeism and Truancy System Map

This system map should be updated every six months to keep up with new reports, bills, and developments that impact chronic absenteeism. Partner agency review and feedback is also recommended.