**How Campus-based Community Agencies Can Help Students ACE their School Year**



ACE is a partnership between schools and families that allows students to:

**ATTEND**– by being present for remote or on-campus learning with a feeling of wellness, safety, and belonging

**COMMIT** – by showing dedication to learning with a feeling of connection to what is being taught

**ENGAGE** – by displaying academic progress with a feeling of confidence and accomplishment



**YOUR ROLE IN SUPPORTING THE ACE CAMPAIGN**

As a community agency, you can support the school-family partnership around attendance by understanding that:

* Attendance matters for success in school and life beginning in pre-K and kindergarten.
* Poor attendance is not only about unexcused absences or willfully skipping but about students underperforming. Absences add up quickly.
* As adults who are active in a child’s life, we are collectively responsible for making sure they develop the habit of regular attendance.
* The greatest disadvantage is loss of instruction. Even a few minutes makes a difference, so students should avoid leaving class early or arriving late, and remain engaged and committed in each class.
* If challenges arise at home related to internet connectivity, health care, housing, transportation, or food, families should feel confident in seeking support from the school community.
* When challenges arise that may impact students’ ability to fully attend, commit, and engage, this is communicated to families, as appropriate.

**How to communicate with schools, families, and students**

* Ask your school liaison about the new ACE Attendance Matters campaign. Visit [ace.e3alliance.org](https://www.ace.e3alliance.org).
* Teach parents about the importance of regular attendance starting in pre-K and kindergarten.
* Help parents of older students understand that excessive absence is a critical warning sign for dropping out, which severely limits their student’s future success in job opportunities and earnings over their lifetime.
* Inspire parents to take advantage of opportunities in public school (sports, music, theatre, academic clubs), which can be expensive and more difficult to experience beyond the high school years. Provide an array of services (social work, mental health, medical, economic, and case management supports) to families of children with extended absences.
* Provide appropriate resources for families in remote and on-campus learning.
* Determine other ways your team will support the school-family ACE partnership.

Thank you for your dedication to our Central Texas students and this ACE campaign. We can make this a win-win situation for all when we work together as partners in education to help our children ACE their school year!