



ABSENTEEISM: School Mental Health *Define . Spot . Deploy.*

Change is not coming fast enough. Access to services have been lost. Remote learning appeared with little support to navigate platforms and life. Communities, Schools, Families, and Students gasp for air. What can schools do NOW! Gather personnel to define what you are looking for, spot the signs, and deploy resources. Failure to do so will result in fewer students in attendance physically but also less engaged students online. Learning loss gaps will widen.



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1. Define



- School Avoidance
- School Withdrawal
- School Refusal
- School phobia

Mental health is a mix of disorders, conditions, and symptoms that can be internalizing and/or externalizing. Most are associated with impaired socioemotional development linked historically, diagnostically, and empirically. Define what we see and name the school attendance problem (SAP).

2. Spot



- Anxiety
- Emotional distress
- Somatic

With many SAPs its easy to conflate what is observed. Study the symptoms often displayed at school. Ask questions of parents of symptoms that are displayed at home. Observe symptoms displayed by student.

3. Deploy



Plan ahead, train staff, educate parents, inform children, equip staff on how to respond efficiently. Use multi-tiered systems of support to respond to need based in SAP.

