

Blueprints Programs that Promote School Engagement

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NCSE | National Center for School Engagement

Today's Purpose

- Overview of the National Center for School Engagement
- Review of Blueprints programs that have been shown to improve school engagement



What is NCSE?

The National Center for School Engagement

- Promoting truancy prevention and school success
- Improving teachers' skills with homeless and highly mobile youth
- Provide training, evaluation and technical assistance
- NCSE is hosted by the Colorado Foundation for Families and Children



Mission

To ensure school success for at-risk youth and their families by improving school engagement.



We Work to Promote the 3As of School Engagement

- Attendance
- Attachment
- Achievement



Solutions for Truant Youth

Strengthening Networks – Building Capacity - Supporting Youth - Creating Cycles of Success

*Engage
Law Enforcement,
Courts,
Schools,
Juvenile Services,
Social Services*

*Develop Public Policy
& Funding Strategies*

*Convene Stakeholders to
Design A Community
Response*

*Provide Evaluation and
Training and Technical
Assistance to Programs
Engaged in Supporting
Attendance, Attachment,
and Achievement*

 **Increased
Family
Involvement**

National Center for School Engagement

**Youth and
Parent
Accountability**

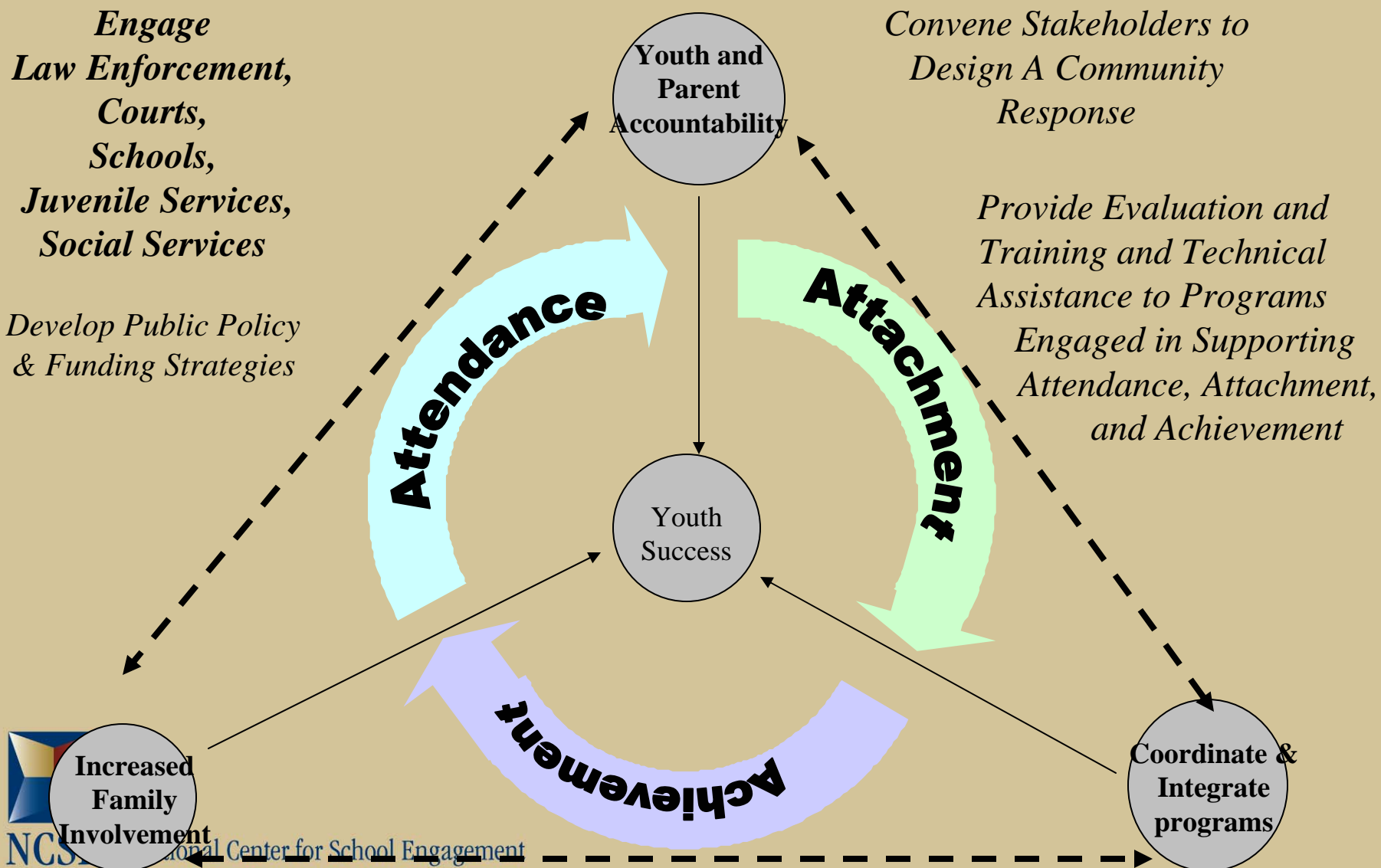
**Youth
Success**

**Coordinate &
Integrate
programs**

Attendance

Attachment

Achievement



Selected Projects

- Evaluation of the Truancy Reduction Demonstration Projects funded by the OJJDP
- Research on the connection between bullying and school attendance – also OJJDP
- National Truancy Prevention Association



NCSE Strategic Planning 2007

- NCSE Work Group Identified:
 - Factors that most influence the 3 As
 - Domains which have the greatest influence on these factors (i.e. school, home, community, research, policy)
 - Strategies that NCSE could use to influence the domains that have the greatest impact on the 3 A's
- Then we developed a recommended core set of strategies for our future direction



NCSE Work Group Recommendations

Our Theory of Change:

- Schools have the most influence in improving student attendance, attachment and achievement
- School effectiveness in improving student attendance, attachment and achievement is impacted by policies, leadership, services, and partnerships.



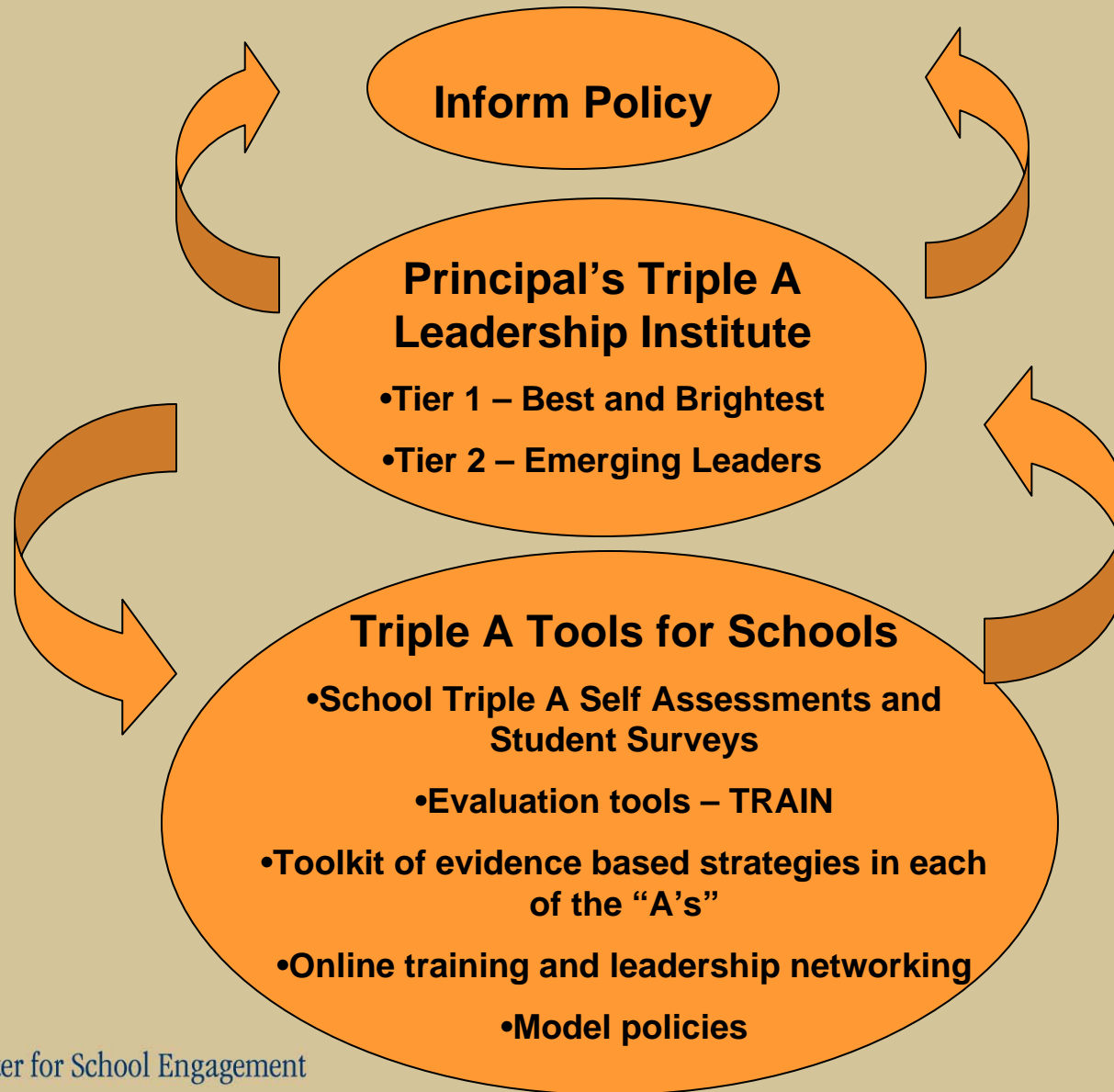
NCSE Work Group Recommendations

Our Theory of Change, continued:

- NCSE can influence these factors most effectively by ...
 - Focusing first on improving schools leadership.
 - Second, by providing “Tools to Schools” for improving the 3As.
 - Finally, by making recommendations to policy makers.



NCSE – Fostering Triple A Schools: Leadership. Tools. Policy.



NCSE Will Continue

- Working to reduce truancy by offering evaluation and technical assistance services
- Offering the TRAIN database to continuing and new truancy reduction programs across the country



Part II: Blueprints!

- Blueprints for Violence Prevention
- Center for the Study of the Prevention of Violence at the University of Colorado
- <http://www.colorado.edu/cspv/blueprints>
- Blueprints advisory board reviews applications from programs using strict criteria



Blueprints Criteria

- Evaluation shows reduced violence (including childhood aggression), delinquency, and/or drug use AND have a strong research design
 - **Preferably with random assignment to treatment groups, or careful use of a control group**
- Programs must show sustained effects beyond the end of the program intervention
- Multi-site replication



Two Tiered System

- Model programs
 - Meet all three criteria (effectiveness + research design, sustained effects, multi-site)
- Promising programs
 - Meet only the first criterion (effectiveness + research design)



How does school engagement figure in?

- Evaluators tend to measure a range of program effects (not just violence, delinquency and drug use)
- The more kids are attached to school, the less they get into trouble with the targeted Blueprints behaviors
- Many programs seek to reduce violence by increasing school engagement
- Blueprints staff provided a list of those that improve school attendance and engagement



Big Brothers Big Sisters - Model Program

- Mentoring for kids ages 6-18 in order to:
 - Improve attitudes and behavior; school achievement; family & peer relationships
 - Provide social and cultural enrichment
- Carefully matched mentors meet with child 3-5 hours a week for a year
- Outcomes:
 - Improvements in school achievement including GPA
 - Cut truancy in half
 - Kids felt more competent in school work



Olweus Bullying Prevention - Model Program

- School-based intervention, 3 interventions:
 - Building (bullying survey, conference, committee, supervised hot spots)
 - Classroom (rules and meetings)
 - Individual (with bullies, victims and parents)
- Outcomes – students report:
 - Improved order and discipline
 - More positive social relationships
 - More positive attitude toward schoolwork and school



Behavioral Monitoring and Reinforcement Program - Promising Program

- Reduce experiences of school failure, delinquency and drug use among at-risk middle school kids
- Components
 - Monitor school attendance & discipline
 - Feedback to students & parents
 - Incentives for good behavior
 - Help students with behavioral strategies
- Outcomes
 - Better grades & attendance
 - Many non-academic outcomes improved also



Perry Preschool Program - Promising Program

- 2-year low-income preschool intervention
 - Operates 2.5 hours per day, 5 days per week, 7 months per year
 - Includes weekly home visits by teachers
- Outcomes
 - Better IQ scores, attitudes toward high school, high school grades and graduation rates
 - Improvements in other outcomes up to age 40



Preventive Treatment Program – Promising Program

- Targets low-SES 7-9 year old boys with disruptive behavior
- 17 sessions of parent training + 19 sessions with both disruptive & non-disruptive boys
- Outcomes at age 12
 - Boys were better adjusted in school
 - Fewer school problems
 - Less likely to have been retained
 - Less likely to be in special ed classes



Seattle Social Development Program - Promising Program

- Teacher instruction in classroom management
- Improves kids' school performance & lets them work in small, heterogeneous groups to increase social skills & contact with prosocial peers
- Parents receive optional training when kids are in 1-6th grades
- Outcomes
 - At beginning of 5th and end of 6th grades, high risk students were more attached and committed to school



Choosing a Program

- There are other good programs, too.
- Replication is key.
- Always a tension between authentic replication and careful adaptation to local context
- Choose a program that matches your children's and families' needs, and your school or community resources



Other places to look

- NCSE Truancy program registry
- NDPC – National Dropout Prevention Center Model Programs
- Promising Practices Network

