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WWC **QUICK** Review

“Meeting the Challenge of Combating Chronic Absenteeism: Impact of the NYC Mayor’s Interagency Task Force on Chronic Absenteeism and School Attendance and Its Implications for Other Cities”

What is the study about?

This study examined the effectiveness of an intervention designed to reduce rates of chronic student absenteeism in New York City public schools. Spearheaded by the Mayor’s office, the intervention consisted of several initiatives, such as identifying and mentoring students at risk of chronic absenteeism and promoting awareness of chronic absenteeism through ad campaigns. The authors compared rates of chronic absenteeism for 100 schools that began implementing the intervention in the fall of either 2010, 2011, or 2012, and 46 comparison schools that did not participate in the intervention. The intervention and comparison schools had nearly 88,000 students in the 2012–13 school year.

What did the study report?

The study authors reported that schools participating in the intervention experienced greater reductions in rates of student chronic absenteeism than the comparison schools. Students who attended the participating schools were less likely to be chronically absent or severely chronically absent than students in comparison schools.

How does the WWC rate this study?

The authors used a comparison group research design to examine the effectiveness of this

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Handy Definitions

- ▼ *quick review*
- ▼ *study rating*
- ▼ *meets WWC evidence standards without reservations*
- ▼ *meets WWC evidence standards with reservations*
- ▼ *does not meet WWC evidence standards*

See the *full glossary* ►

program. As such, the study could *meet WWC evidence standards with reservations* but additional information is needed to determine whether the analytic samples were equivalent at baseline. A more thorough review (forthcoming) will determine the rating for the study and report more fully on its results.

Citation

Balfanz, R., & Byrnes, V. (2013). *Meeting the challenge of combating chronic absenteeism: Impact of the NYC Mayor's Interagency Task Force on Chronic Absenteeism and School Attendance and its implications for other cities*. Baltimore, MD: Johns Hopkins School of Education.

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