



COMPASS

Simplifying and advancing continuous improvement for district and school leaders



Angela Mansfield, Assistant Commissioner – Office of Educational Opportunity

COMPASS Attendance Support

COMPASS Attendance Team

[MnMTSS Attendance Guidebook](#)

COMPASS Attendance Professional Learning Opportunities

Attendance Inbox - for Technical Support and Consult Requests

State Attendance Pilot Program Support

District-County Communication Model (in partnership with DCYF)

Additional Collaborations & Partnerships

[COMPASS Attendance Webpage](#)

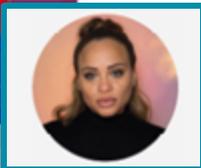
COMPASS Statewide Attendance Team



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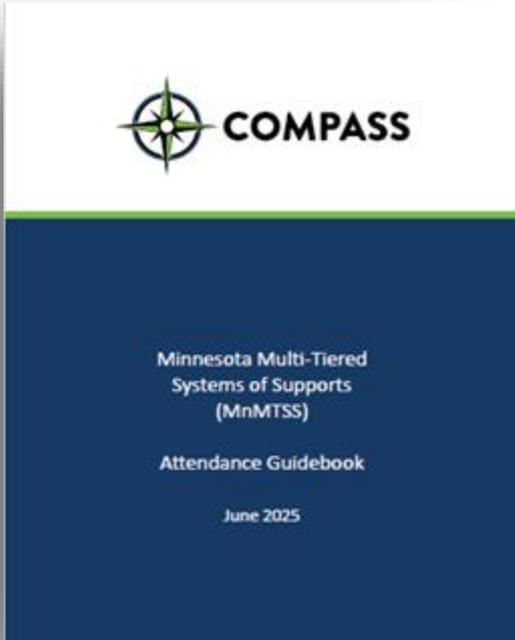


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COMPASS MnMTSS Attendance Guidebook

COMPASS Attendance Guidebook is available



- Summary of Evidence Based Practices to support student attendance
- Key Actions for District Leaders, School Leaders and Teachers
- Resources: A collection of resources that can support district and school leaders in implementing action steps

COMPASS whole-staff attendance professional development

- Highlighting the foundational nature of continuous improvement cycles for attendance
- Grounding attendance work in culture & climate work

Professional Learning and Collaboration

COMPASS cross-team collaboration with:

- The American Indian Student Support Team
- The Climate & Culture Team

COMPASS Statewide System of Support - Attendance Professional Learning

Attendance Professional Learning Pathways and Aligned Support

1 Improving Attendance Utilizing the MnMTSS Framework

Year Long 

2 Building a Strong Attendance Team

Fall  Spring 

3 Data-Driven Attendance Strategies

Fall  Spring 

Improving Attendance Utilizing the MnMTSS Framework

The sessions will support participants to:

- **Evaluate and strengthen infrastructure** that supports attendance within the MnMTSS framework
- **Integrate attendance into the broader MnMTSS system** by embedding it into continuous improvement cycles
- **Design and implement proactive, culturally responsible systems** for family and community engagement that promote shared responsibility.
- **Foster inclusive school environments** for student belonging, engagement, and a sense of purpose.
- **Use data strategically** to identify trends, monitor implementation, and design effective interventions.
- **Develop a district- or school-level action plan** to lead sustainable, equity-driven improvements in student attendance.

Attendees: 55 attendees representing 16 districts

Improving Attendance Sessions

Session 1: 9/16/25 (Virtual)	<i>Introductory Session</i>
Session 2: 10/21/25 (Virtual)	<i>Building Awareness about Attendance</i>
Session 3: 11/18/25 (Virtual)	<i>Infrastructure for Continuous Improvement</i>
Session 4: 12/16/25 (Virtual)	<i>Integrating Attendance into Collaborative Linked Teams</i>
Session 5: 1/20/26 (Virtual)	<i>Systems for Family Engagement</i>
Session 6: 2/17/26 (Virtual)	<i>Fostering School Environments where Students want to be</i>
Session 7: 3/17/26 (Virtual)	<i>Designing Supports for Students of Concern for Chronic Absenteeism</i>
Session 8: 4/21/26 (Virtual)	<i>Regularly Reviewing and Responding to Attendance Data</i>
Session 9: 5/19/26 (Virtual)	<i>Leading Change Across Complex Systems</i>

Building a Strong Attendance Team

The pathway will support participants to:

- Strengthen the infrastructure of collaborative linked teams to ensure student attendance concerns are identified and addressed within the district's MnMTSS structures.
- Establish clear protocols for using data to identify students of concern, review trends, and monitor the impact of interventions.
- Practice using a root cause analysis to uncover systemic and individual barriers contributing to student absence.
- Design culturally responsive communication practices that engage families as partners in attendance improvement.

Attendees:

21 attendees representing 4 districts (Fall 25)

53 attendees representing 20 districts (Spring 26)

Building a Strong Team Sessions

Session 1

Fall: 9/10/25

Spring: 2/11/26

Introductory Session

Foundations – Linking Teams to Attendance

Session 2:

Fall: 10/8/25

Spring: 3/11/26

Root Cause Analysis & Matching Supports

Session 3:

Fall: 11/12/25

Spring: 4/8/26

Identifying Students of Concern & Data Review Protocols

Session 4:

Fall: 12/10/5

Spring: 5/13/26

Partnering with Families & Sustaining Team Practices

Data-Driven Attendance Strategies

The pathway will support participants to:

- Strengthen and use data sources, determine their accessibility, and work through organizational and visual structures for the data
- Work through systemic data review protocols to identify both group and individual attendance trends and patterns
- Effective review of data and pair attendance strategies with the learnings from the data
- Integrate attendance data with academic and behavior outcomes (quantitative and qualitative data)

Attendees:

30 attendees representing 14 districts (Fall 25)

14 attendees representing 9 districts (Spring 26)

Data-Based Attendance Strategies

Session 1

Fall: 10/7/25

Spring: 2/3/26

*Session 1: Fortifying a
Data-Informed Attendance
Foundation*

Session 2:

Fall: 11/4/25

Spring: 3/3/26

*Session 2: From Numbers to
Narratives: Data Visualization
& Storytelling*

Session 3:

Fall: 12/2/25

Spring: 4/7/26

*Session 3: Root Cause Analysis
& Linking to Tiered Strategies*

Session 4:

Fall: 1/6/26

Spring: 5/5/26

*Session 4: Progress Monitoring
& Sustaining Data-Driven
Practices*

Northwest Service Cooperative:

- Kelliher
- Schoolcraft Learning Community

Sourcewell:

- Cass Lake-Bena
- Crosby-Ironton
- Crosslake

Southwest West Central Service Cooperative:

- Jackson County
- Lester Prairie
- New London-Spicer
- Renville County
- Windom
- Renville County West

BrightWorks:

- District 287
- Bloomington
- Brooklyn Center
- Burnsville-Eagan-Savage
- Eastern Carver County

- Eden Prairie
- Hastings
- Hmong CPA
- Lakeville
- Minneapolis
- Minnetonka

- Mounds View
- Saint Paul City School
- South St. Paul
- St. Louis Park
- White Bear Lake
- Wayzata

Northeast Service Cooperative:

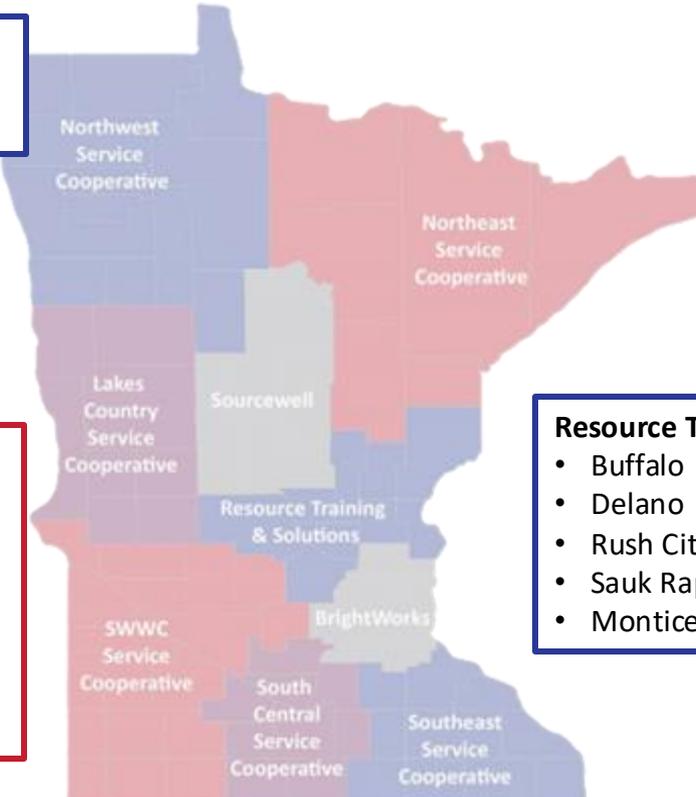
- Barnum
- Carlton
- Chisholm
- Cloquet
- Harbor City International
- Mesabi East

Resource Training and Solutions:

- Buffalo
- Delano
- Rush City
- Sauk Rapids-Rice
- Monticello

Southeast Service Cooperative:

- Houston
- Northfield
- Red Wing
- Rochester
- Wabasha-Kellogg



Pilot Districts Supported by Professional Learning Pathways

Pilot District	Improving Attendance Utilizing the MnMTSS Framework	Building a Strong Attendance Team	Data-Driven Attendance Strategies
Burnsville	X	X	X
Minneapolis	X	X	
Northfield		X	
Rochester	X	X	
Sauk Rapids-Rice		X	
Windom			X

COMPASS Flexible Attendance Support for Districts

- Districts across Minnesota are **prioritizing attendance as a critical factor for student success**. The COMPASS Attendance team is supporting this work by offering **no-cost technical support** to school and district leaders, helping them strengthen attendance practices and align with state goals.
- Since launching this support, **MDE has received 16 consultation requests** – leading to technical assistance and enrollment in structural pathways that promote consistent attendance policies statewide. These efforts ensure districts have the tools and guidance needed to improve student engagement and reduce chronic absenteeism.

COMPASS System of Support: State Attendance Pilot Program

- Co-developing common attendance definitions and coding standards
- COMPASS Attendance and Climate team offered a pathway series for interested pilot districts
- Pilots requested support on coding/reporting and co-creating a model attendance policy
 - COMPASS Attendance Team shared a draft model attendance policy with Pilots in February for discussion



District – County – Tribal Partnership Model



COMPASS is currently partnering with DCYF to co-develop a model process to support the required communication between district, county, and Tribal partners.

This new collaborative opportunity will be shared with district, county, and Tribal partners in February 2026. Starting with listening sessions - key leaders in each areas will help determine need.

Additional Collaboration and Partnerships

Minneapolis Foundations - Convenings and Advisory Committee

- Attending monthly convenings centered around mobilizing shared effort around attendance matters

Minnesota Youth Council (MYC) - Attendance & Engagement

- Connecting with MYC leaders who have chosen attendance and engagement as their main focus

Evidence-Based Practices to support statewide continuous improvement

- Working with other COMPASS teams to highlight practices that directly address the needs of schools identified for continuous improvement in the area of attendance

Attendance Inbox

attendance.mde@state.mn.us

Attendance Webpage





THANK YOU!