


Poverty and School Attendance: BARRIERS and possible solutions



Over $\frac{2}{3}$ of BC teachers polled state that stable living or housing is the most significant poverty-related barrier to attendance.

ATTENDANCE					
WEEK 1	M	T	W	T	F
Jack	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Phoebe	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Ryder	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Nicholas	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Lexi	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Hanna	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Daniel	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Max	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Charlotte	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Jasmine	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Present	6	8	8	5	7
Absent	4	2	2	5	3



(84.5%) of teachers in this survey have some students for whom low attendance is an issue



How can we support students?



Be flexible with schedule and assignments.



Build solid relationships with families.



Use technology to communicate with students.



Be kind, caring, and understanding



Work as a team.



Provide lunch; have afterschool help and programs.

How are schools encouraging school attendance?

- Staff are welcoming **79.3%**
- Programs to help track student attendance **80.7%**
- Dedicated staff to support attendance **56.8%**
- Programs to welcome and involve parents in the school **64.2%**
- Assistance with travel costs **29.5%**

Three main barriers to attendance:

- staying home to look after siblings
- lack of transportation to and from school
- parental illness or disability

