



NCSE | National Center for School Engagement

Using A Typology for Truancy Prevention

National Center for School Engagement

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**An initiative of the Colorado Foundation for Families and Children
303 E. 17th Avenue, Suite 400 Denver, CO 80203
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www.schoolengagement.org**

Promoting attendance, attachment and achievement



Using a Typology for Truancy Prevention

Overall Steps to Success

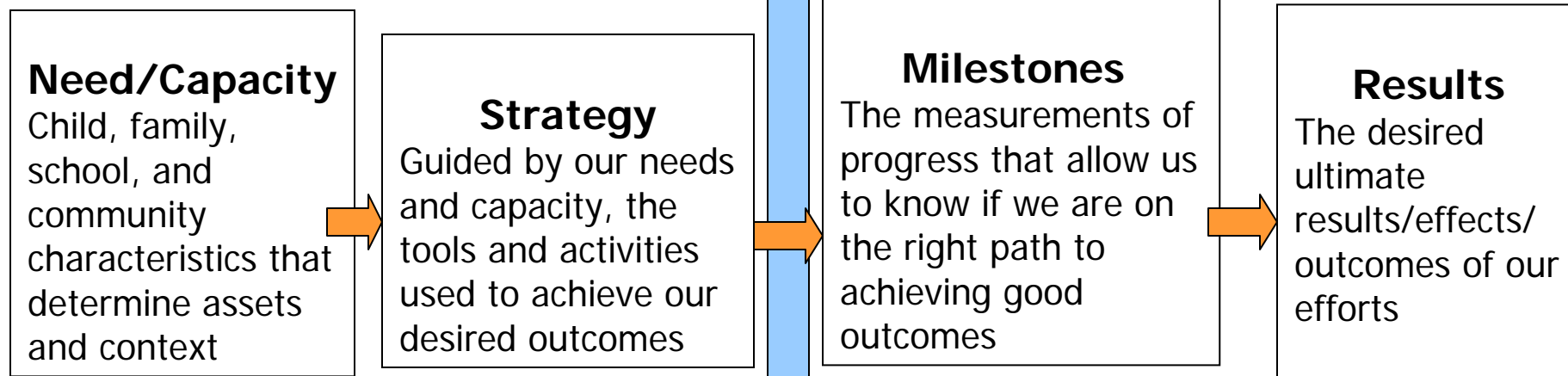
- **Assess needs and resources**
- **Develop a logic model**
- **Plan for success around attendance, attachment, achievement**
- **Data-based decision making**
- **Review / change policies**
- **Balance sticks and carrots**
- **Select your interventions**
- **Implement your actions**
- **Public awareness and involvement**



RESULTS-BASED TRUANCY PROGRAM LOGIC MODEL

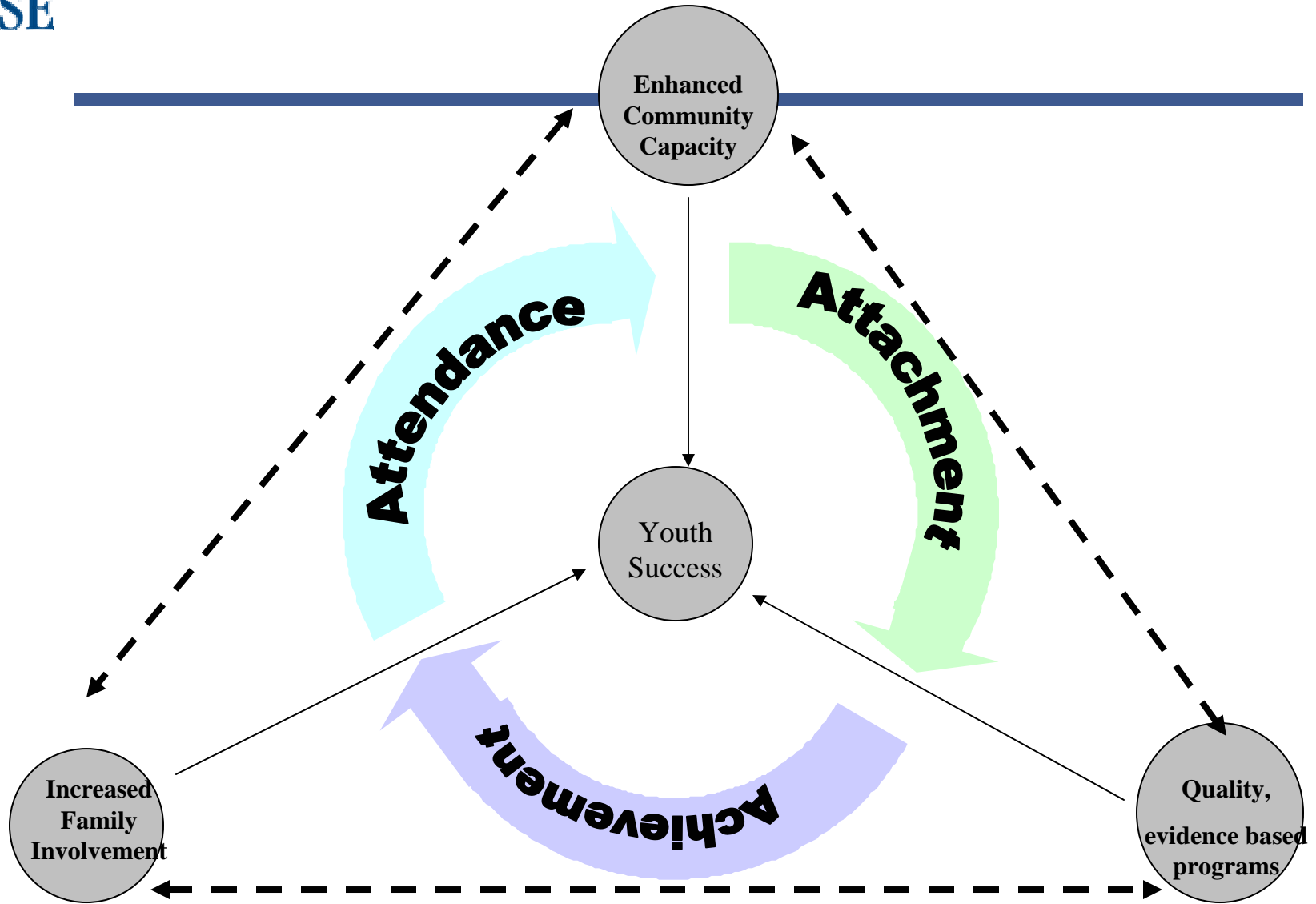
Principles that guide the work:

- Diversity is valued
- Families are actively involved
- Youth are treated with respect
- Collaboration with community partners is critical



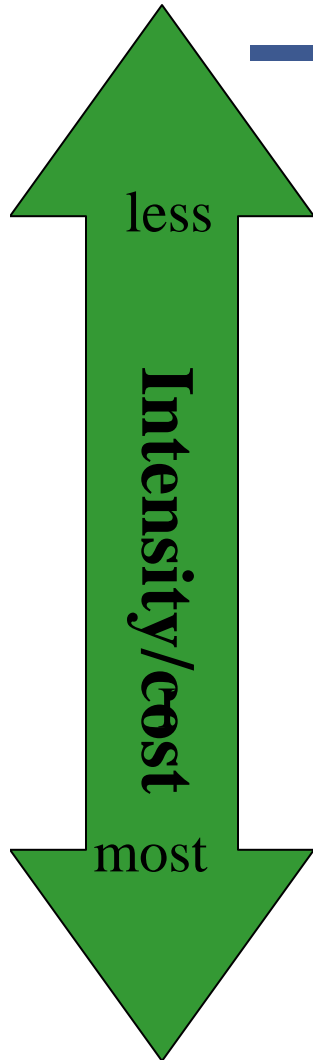
EVALUATION

Solutions for Truant Youth





A Continuum Typology



- 1) **What?** Collaborations for Community Action: **Who?** Schools, courts, police
Actions: Planning and interagency agreements
- 2) **What?** Public Awareness Activities_ **Who?** School & community
Actions: Media, publications, community campaigns
- 3) **What?** Short Term Interventions_ **Who?** Schools
Actions:
 - Teacher-parent call and conversation
 - Principal-teacher-parent conference
 - Student Attendance Review Boards (SARB)
 - Parent-student workshop to develop behavior contracts & school accommodations
 - Home visits
 - Mediation
- 4) **What?** Longer Term Interventions **Who?** School, courts, community
Action: Case Management: youth advocacy and service coordination
Action: Student Support Services: counseling, academic tutoring
- 5) **What?** Court interventions **Who?** Courts, juvenile services
Actions: Parent arrest, detention of youth, fines , Dependency and neglect petitions, At-risk youth petitions, Driver's license revocation/delay



Local Action

Where do we start?

- Know your attendance laws, local policies & their inconsistencies
- Develop a strategic plan across agencies
- Focus on attendance and engagement not just truancy
- Adopt promising practices that “fit” locally
- Create both incentives and graduated sanctions
- Involve students and parents in planning programs to improve attendance and engagement
- Take baselines and track progress



Sticks and Carrots: Mix and Match

Sticks/Sanctions

Fine or Arrest of Parents
Contempt Citation & Detention
Withhold TANF from Parents
File CHINS/PINS Petitions
File Educational Neglect Petition
School F Grade for absence
No Extra Curricular Activities.
School Suspensions/.Expulsions
Suspend Driving License
Take cell phone away

Carrots/Incentives

Attendance Awards
Change Teachers/ Placement
Flexible School Schedule
Tutoring & Academic Support
Home Visits + Plan
Service Learning
School-Home Contracts
After School Programs
Classmates Send Letters Home
Case Mgmt. Services
Truancy Workshops



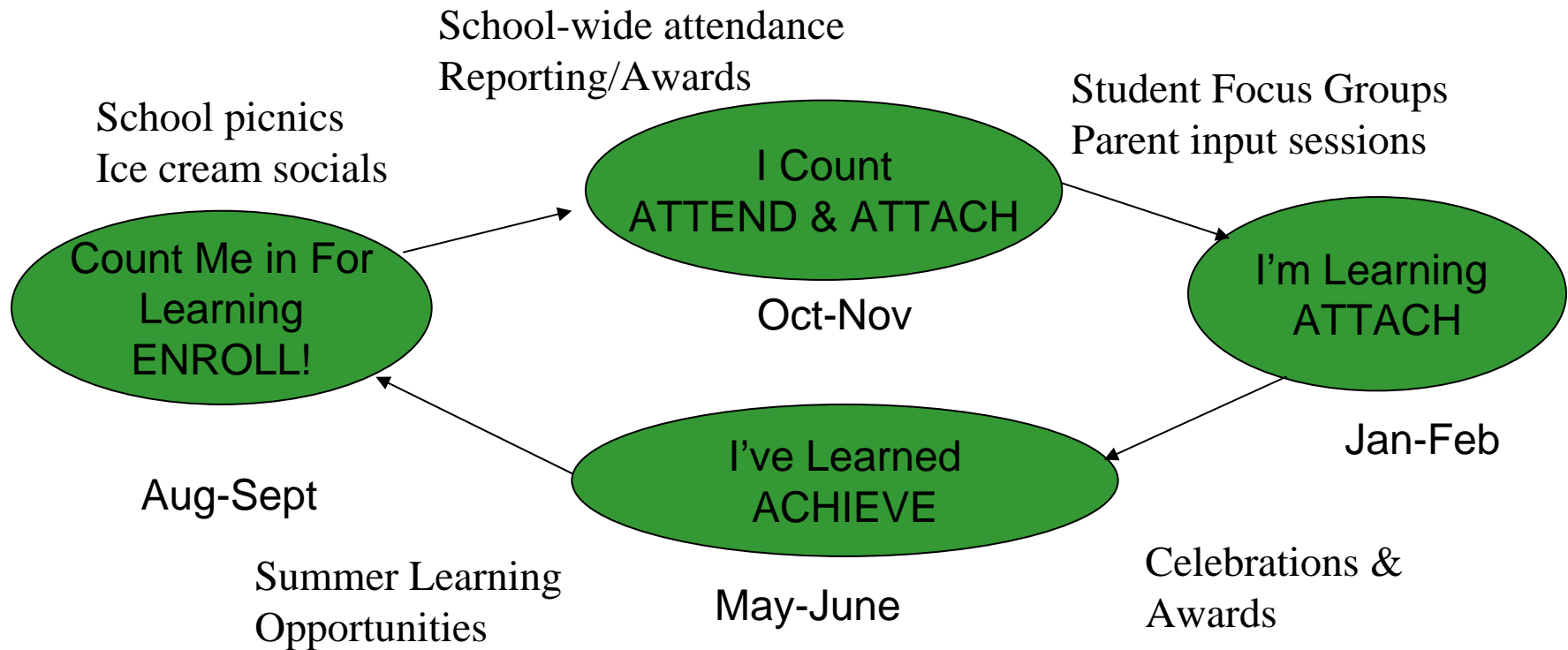
Typical Policies Needing Change

- **End out of school suspensions for being truant**
- **Finance schools by average daily attendance rate, not one day counts**
- **Document attendance and truancy by school and set goals**
- **Less use by courts of detention for truancy**
- **Remove attendance as a factor in grading**
- **Start secondary schools later in the day**
- **Provide partial credit options for students**
- **Conduct a “push out” policy audit of rules and practices**
- **Eliminate “push-out policies” and modify to promote engagement**
- **Raise compulsory attendance age to 18**



Count Me In For Learning!

Public Education Campaign for School Engagement Year-Long Topical Activities in Schools and Communities



The National Center for School Engagement (NCSE) is an initiative of The Colorado Foundation for Families and Children (CFFC). NCSE strives to build a network of key stakeholders who share the belief that improving school attendance and school attachment promotes achievement and school success.



National Center for School Engagement

NCSE was established as a result of more than a decade of educational research about youth out of the educational mainstream conducted by CFFC. The impact of this work has been the development of significant investments of state funds to reduce suspensions expulsions and truancy. Over five years ago, CFFC began working with the OJJDP, US Department of Justice to assist in the planning and implementation of pilot demonstration projects across the country. As projects developed, CFFC became the national evaluator of this five-year truancy demonstration project.

The culmination of ten years of program experience and research has identified truancy and school engagement as the centerpiece of NCSE's work to improve outcomes for youth who are at the greatest risk of school failure and delinquency. We are national leaders in applying research to help communities prevent and reduce truancy.

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