

What Is Strengthen our Community (SoC)?

A Non-Profit That Is Not Committed To Any One Cause

Dedicated To Addressing Community-Wide Challenges:

- **Important But Complex Issues**
- **Issues Too Difficult To Resolve For Any One Agency**
- **Crosses Public, Private, Non-profit, And Business Sectors**
- **Has Impacts On The Long-term Strength Of The Community**
- **Emphasis On Education, Families, And Good Governance**



**Strengthen
our Community**

Top SoC Issues

1. Chronic Absenteeism (CA) Crisis

Goal: To Pre-Pandemic Level By 2027 - 15k To 7.5k

2. Education – Preschool / Pre- K (4-Year-Olds)

Goal: 100% WCSD Kids In Pre-school By 2028

3. Childcare – Availability And Affordability

Goal: Increase 11,000 To 15,000 By 2028

4. Healthcare / Mental Health For Kids

Goal – In Every Elementary, EL & And MS By 2026

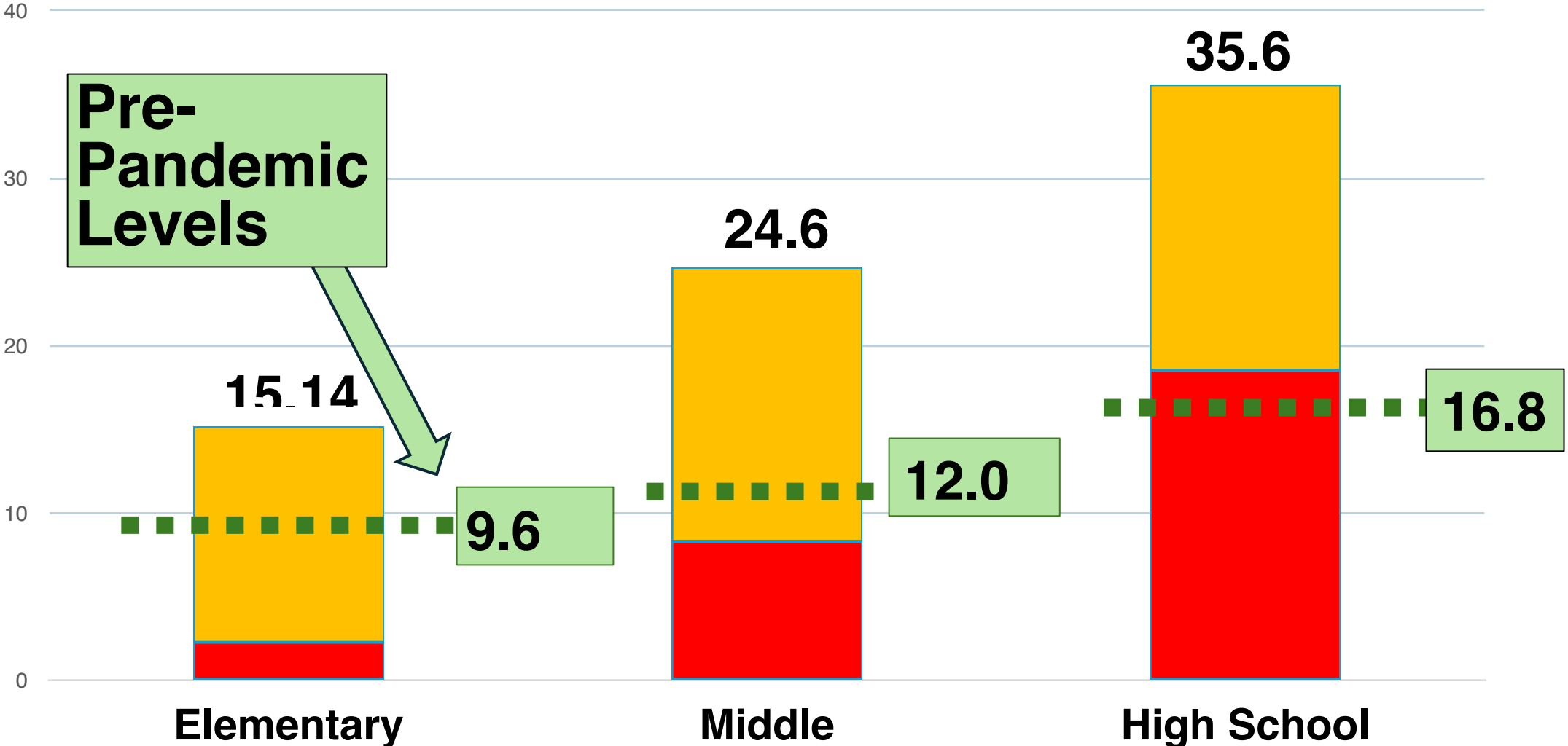


Chronic Absenteeism Defined

- **A Student Misses More Than 10% (18 Days) Of A School Year**
- **In WCSD, The Average Is 33 Days Absent Out Of 180 Days**
- **Chronic Absenteeism Is The Gateway To Economic Hardship**
 - **Lower-Status Occupations**
 - **Higher Unemployment Rates**
 - **Low Earnings As Adults**
- **Chronic Absenteeism Has Cumulative Effects Compounding From One Year To The Next**

WCSD 2024 Absentee Percent By Category

■ Severe (20% or 36+ Days) ■ Chronic (10% to 20% 18 to 36 Days)



Chronic Absenteeism = Dropouts!

- **Studies Show That Chronically Absent High School Students Are 700% More Likely to Drop Out of School.**
- **Chronically Absent Kids In Pre–First Grade Are Unlikely To Read At Grade Level By 3rd Grade And 4 Times More Likely To Drop Out.**
- **A 2001 Coalition For Juvenile Justice Report Found That 82% Of The Inmates In Adult Prisons Had Dropped Out Of High School.**
- **The Average High School Dropout Costs Society More Than \$800,000 Over The Course Of Their Lifetime:**
(The Center For American Progress, “The High Cost Of Truancy.”)

Chronic Absenteeism = Increased Crime

- **High School Dropouts Are More Likely To Commit Crimes And Be Victims Of Crime.**
- **According to *Henry & Huizinga's Research*, "Truants" Are:**
 - **12 Times As Likely To Commit A Serious Assault**
 - **21 Times As Likely To Commit A Serious Property Crime**
- **Of Juveniles Convicted Of Murder In New York Between 1978 And 1986, With School Records, 89% Had A History Of Truancy**
- **San Francisco DA: 2004 To 2008 Found That 94 Percent Of Homicide Victims Under Age 25 Are High School Dropouts**
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The Incredible Cost Of Chronic Absenteeism

(In Addition to The Tragedy Of A Life Lost To Poverty)

- **Employers:** Results In Workforce Shortages And Talent Scarcity
- **Taxpayers:**
 - More Crime And The Justice System Utilization
 - Perpetuates The Cycle Of Poverty And Homelessness
 - Increases The Costs Of Social Services
- **Schools/Students:** Curriculum Disruption Negativity Impacts All Students And Increased Burden On Teachers
- **Community:** Poverty And Crime Impacts “Quality Of Life” And Safety

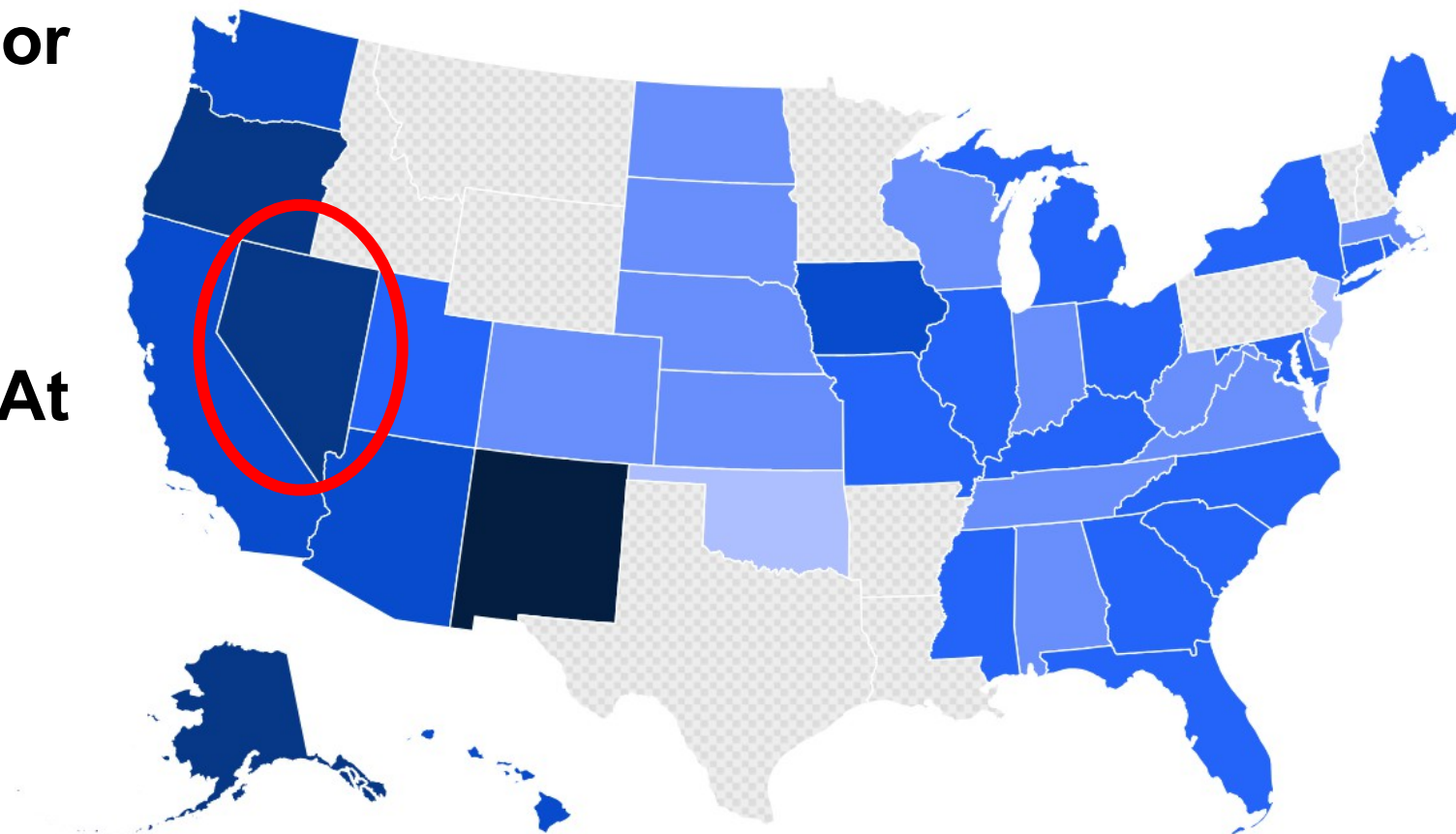
Applied Analysis Report Cost Of Chronic Absenteeism \$20b Over 20 Yrs!

Chronic Absenteeism Trends 2018-19 to 2022-23

Percentage point difference 2018-19 to 2022-23



- **Nevada Is In The Top Three In The Nation For The Greatest Surge From 2019 To 2023**
- **Nevada's 2023 Absenteeism Rate Is At 34.9% Or More Than 170,000 Students**

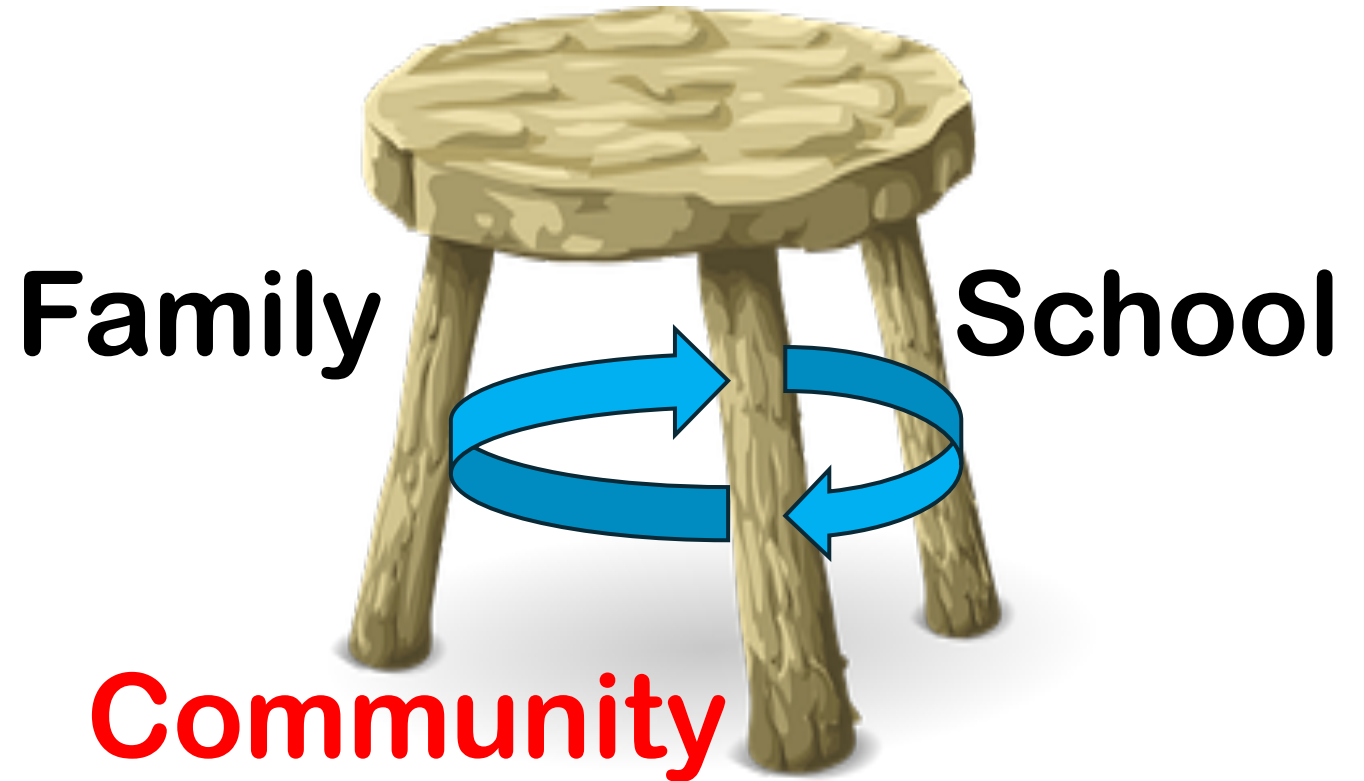
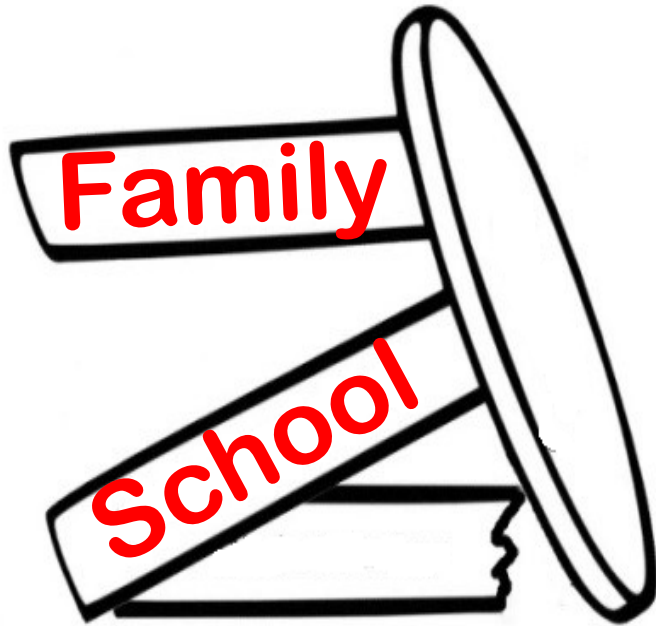


Updated 4/12/2024

New FutureEd Research

Time To Stabilize The Stool

Addressing Chronic Absenteeism Requires A Synergistic Response That Includes Community Engagement



Chronic Absenteeism Task Force

- **Members From:**

- Washoe County School District
- Washoe County
- Community In Schools
- Private Charter School – Doral Academy
- Education Alliance
- Reno Sparks Chamber
- Public Broadcasting Service

- **Six-Month Task Force**

- **Where Can The Community Help?**

- **15 Barriers To Attendance Identified**

- **Eight Initiatives With Goals and Solutions Identified**



Task Force Identified Initiatives

- 1 A Site Coordinator Or Prevention Specialist At Every MS**
- 2 Fund Family Resource Centers (FRCs) To Provide Basic Needs**
- 3 Develop Innovative Approaches To Transportation**
- 4 Expand Before And After School Childcare**
- 5 Prevent Students From Falling Behind In Academics**
- 6 Educate Parents On The Resources Available**
- 7 Launch An Awareness Campaign On Impacts Of Absenteeism**
- 8 Ensure That Every Student Has A Teacher – Teacher Appreciation**

#1 On-Site Coordinators

Our Goal

- 1. FY28 - All middle schools have a CIS coordinator or prevention specialist**
- 2. FY30 - 100% of Title I schools**
- 3. 100% of all schools = long-term goal**

Support

- 1. Funding with community in schools @ \$45,000 per site coordinator**
- 2. All Middle schools = \$600,000 / yr**
- 3. Fundraising effort to raise \$4.2 M for coordinators and resource centers 2025-2028, three years**

#2

Access to Basic Needs

The Current Need In Nevada

- **16% of children live in poverty**
- **28% of children have parents who lack secure employment**
- **8% of children have no health insurance**
- **40% of children in WCSD live in single-parent families**
- **WCSD identified 1,991 students who were homeless in SY23-24**

#2

Access to Basic Needs

Our Goal

Sustain funding for current centers, and increase the number of family resource centers (from 5 to 6)

Down to just three in 2025

Support

Each center costs \$165,000

Campaign to fund seven centers over the next three years

= \$700,000 x 3 or \$2.1m

#3

Transportation Innovation

Possible Solutions

- 1. Create safer and smaller walk zones. Currently 1, 2, and 3 miles.**
- 2. Have Site Coordinators identify and address the individual transportation needs**
- 3. Collaborate with organizations like the Boys & Girls Clubs (B&GC) and MyRide to Work**
- 4. Free RTC Bus Rides For Students (Recently Approved Trial for WCSD)**

#4 Childcare

Our Goal

Increase early education providers: Goal is to add 4,000 spaces in 4 years

New	= 1,700	total cost \$80 M
employer	= 2,310	total cost \$10 M
in home	= 660	total cost \$ 2 M

Support

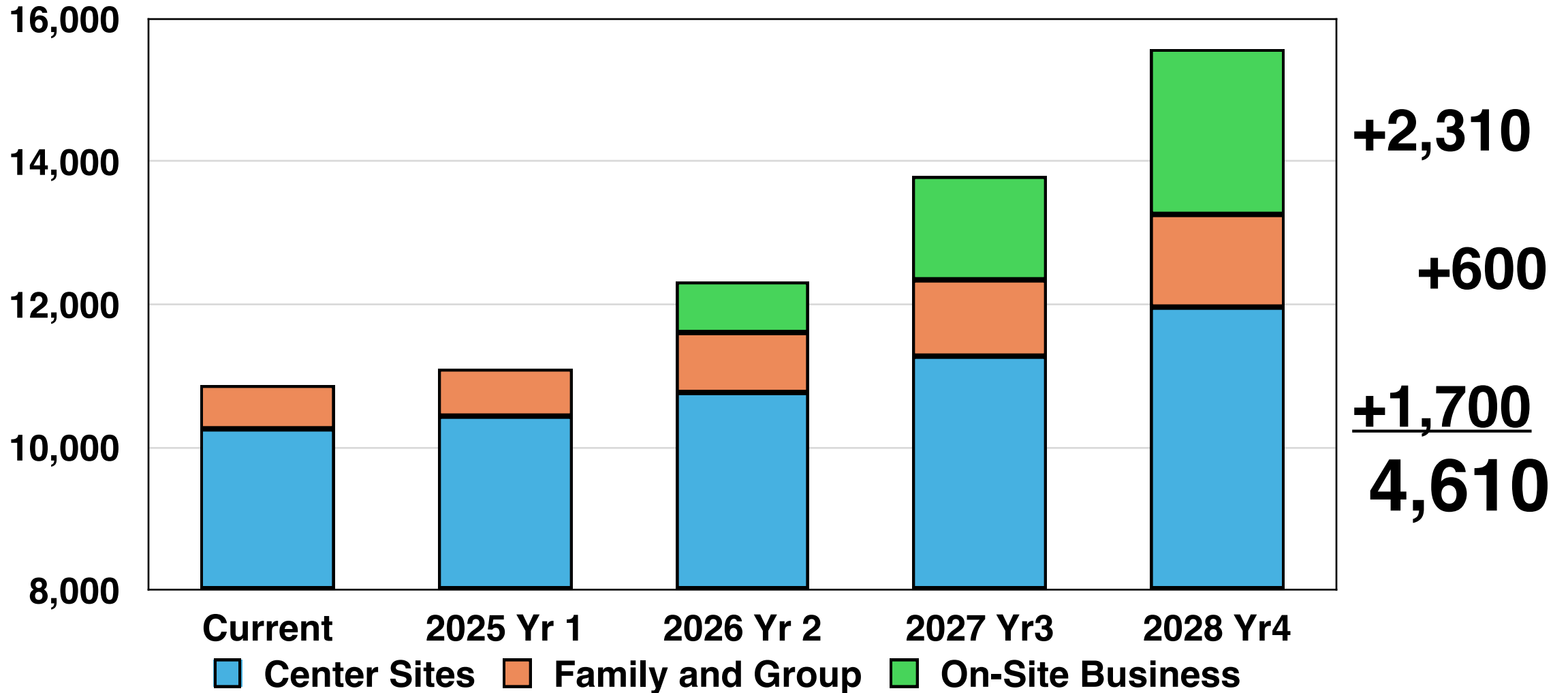
Funding is needed to assist in employer modifications for childcare

Free land 1.5 to 2 acres for new sites

Partially fund 100 per in-home modification at \$20,000 per home

Plan To Address Childcare In Washoe County

The Goal Is 40% Increase In Slots - in 4 years



#5 Prevent Students From Falling Behind

Our Goal

Identify students falling behind early

Engage tutoring and science-based learning

Identify reading disabilities

15% of kids have dyslexia

Support

Support read by 3rd grade efforts

Support Science of Reading

Fund testing for those falling behind

#6

**Family
Engagement
and Family-
School
Partnerships**

Possible Solutions

- 1. Capitalize on Parent University and develop content regarding attendance**
- 2. Leverage the parent teacher home visit project to visit families and build trusting relationships**
- 3. Support middle school transition meetings for families**
- 4. Continue support for kindergarten transition meetings**

#7 Community Awareness

Our Goal

Everyone becomes aware and accepts chronic absenteeism as a community problem

Support

Support marketing

Financially support TV & radio ads with the message: attendance matters campaign

Develop and execute a teacher appreciation program

#8

Reduce Subs

Our Goal

A permanent teacher in every classroom

Support

1. Attractiveness: how do we make the district more attractive to teachers?
2. Childcare: support teachers who need childcare
3. Certification: expedite teacher certification process
4. Teacher appreciation: campaign to show teachers our appreciation

Teacher Appreciation Campaign - May



- Recognize May as Teacher Appreciation Month
- Every Teacher In Washoe County Gets Touched

- We All Can: Thank a Teacher – Notes/Gift Cards/Texts Etc.
- Businesses:
 - Engage With the Schools, Especially Near Your Business
 - Adopt a School and Find Out What They Need
 - Promote Teacher Appreciation on Company Signs
 - Consider Providing Teacher Discounts

Additional Issues We're Monitoring and Working On!

- 1. Provide on-site or near the school healthcare for students**
- 2. Increase mental health support**
- 3. Expand before & after programs to include extracurricular activities**
- 4. Establish no-phone policy in teaching areas, or in schools**
- 5. Engage mentors**
- 6. Increase early intervention programs to prevent students from falling behind**