



**YOU ARE INVITED TO ATTEND**  
the next Education Policy Forum Luncheon *on the topic of*

## **Community Schools Addressing Early Chronic Absenteeism** *Research, Practice, and Policy Implications*

Friday October 9<sup>th</sup>, 12-2pm

**NEW LOCATION: THE AMERICAN FEDERATION OF TEACHERS**

555 New Jersey Ave N.W., 9<sup>th</sup> Floor Conference Room

Washington, DC 20001

*(Attendees should sign in at front desk)*

Early Chronic Absenteeism affects academic achievement. Nationally, approximately one in ten kindergarten and 1<sup>st</sup> grade students are chronically absent from school, missing valuable educational experiences during a critical period in their academic development. Research shows that children, regardless of gender, socioeconomic status or ethnicity, lose out when they are chronically absent (i.e., missing nearly a month of school or more over the course of a year). Children chronically absent in kindergarten show lower levels of achievement in math, reading and general knowledge during first grade. In New York City, 20% of students in grades K-5 were chronically absent.

Please join us for a discussion on how community schools are addressing the barriers (e.g. poor health, family stress, and other non-academic factors) that lead to chronic absences among our nation's youngest students. [Kent County's School Services Network](#), in Grand Rapids, MI, has experienced success in addressing chronic absenteeism through their implementation of community schools. A local community school principal will share how his school and Kent County worked together to tackle this issue – using the community school approach.



Panelists will address:

- How community schools involve parents and the community, use school improvement teams, student support teams, and professional development?
- New strategies for analyzing attendance data – average daily attendance versus early chronic absence.
- New strategies and incentives school districts can utilize for getting students to come to and stay in school.
- The role the Federal government can play in supporting and creating these incentives.
- Do Community Schools address early chronic absenteeism better than traditional public schools?

**Guest Panelists Include:**

- [Hedy Chang](#), Consultant, Annie E. Casey Foundation, Co-Author of [Present, Engaged & Accounted For](#)
- [Michael I. Ghareeb](#), Principal Alger Middle School
- [Kim Nauer](#), Education Project Director, Center for New York City Affairs The New School, co-author of [Strengthening Schools by Strengthening Families](#)
- [Matthew VanZetten](#), Management Analyst, Kent County (MI) Family & Children's Coordinating Council, [Kent School Services Network](#)

Required reservations are taken in order of receipt. **A \$13 donation for the subsidized lunch will be collected at the door.** Limited available seating is assigned according to the order in which reservations are received.

Please RSVP by e-mail to Barbara Leitham (AERA): [bleitham@aera.net](mailto:bleitham@aera.net)

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