

## Civic Action

*A monthly update from the National Civic League*

September 2015

### Apply for the 2016 All-America City Award

Share the story of your community's work to support young people

Around the country, communities are working to remove barriers for students to help their youth create a path to success. National Civic League is proud to announce that in 2016, the [All-America City Awards](#) will highlight community efforts to: ***ensure that all our children are healthy and successful in school and life.***

Our focus includes (but is not limited to) topics such as: attendance, health and well-being (of children, parents and community), access to and affordability of transportation, neighborhood safety, poverty, food access and nutrition, affordable housing, and healthy natural environments.

Our goal with this spotlight is to raise up local examples of innovative and effective community problem-solving that recognizes all influences on the success of children and uses all sectors to address those influences. ***Simply put, if your program or community supports young people and makes it more likely that they will be able to succeed in school and life, you should [consider applying](#).***

[Apply for the 2016 All-America City Award](#) and be recognized for your community's work helping all children succeed in school and life.

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**New report reveals how chronic absenteeism impacts academic outcomes - and how to close the attendance gap**

### In This Issue

[Apply for AAC 2016](#)

[Combating Chronic Absenteeism](#)

[Become an NCL member](#)



### Monthly AAC Support & Learning Calls

Talk to 2015 All-America City winners about their innovative projects, why they applied, and get useful, practical advice about applying for AAC.

**Oct. 13, 10a-11am MT**

[Register for the October call](#)

[Visit the AAC Conf. Call Archive to listen to the Sept. call and others](#)



### Quick Links

[National Civic League](#)

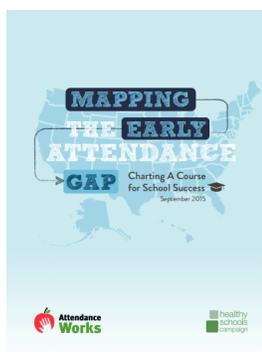
[All-America City Award](#)

[Apply for AAC 2016](#)

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Across the country, an **estimated 5 million to 7.5 million students are missing nearly a month of school** and suffering academically for it.

According to a [new report](#) from Attendance Works and Healthy Schools Campaign, *"This isn't simply a matter of truancy or skipping school. In fact, many of these absences, especially among our youngest students, are excused and tied directly to health factors: asthma and dental problems, learning disabilities, and mental health issues related to trauma and community violence."*



Evidence has long shown that chronic absenteeism is directly linked to poor educational outcomes. In fact, as [Mapping the Early Attendance Gap](#) illustrates "by ninth grade, absenteeism is a better indicator that a student will dropout than eighth grade test scores."

If attendance is so critical and one of the best early warning signs - we have to ask - are we heeding those warnings, and are we doing what it takes to address the underlying challenges? [Mapping the Early Attendance Gap](#) identifies key factors shaping the attendance gap and offers a Five Step Approach for closing that gap.

### **Support NCL and the All-America City Award - Become a Member Today!**

The All-America City Award recognizes and celebrates the best in America and America's cities. The nation's most prestigious civic award, the All-America City Award encourages communities to strive for excellence. Your membership in the National Civic League helps ensure that the All-America City Award continues to inspire, support and recognize civic innovation and excellence - [become a member today.](#)

Members of the National Civic League support AAC, and our work - they also get access to an online database of more than 450+ innovative projects from All-America City finalists. Members also receive four issues of the *National Civic Review* full of the latest research, case studies and insights into emerging practices within communities. [Become a member today!](#)

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