

## Best Practices of Principals to Increase Attendance in Low-Socioeconomic Status Rural High Schools

Students who do not attend school cannot learn from school. Attendance at school is especially a challenge at rural schools with a high percentage of students who are from low socioeconomic households (low-SES). Presented are best practices of principals of 100% low-SES rural high schools (grades 9-12) to achieve high ( $\geq 90\%$ ) annual attendance rates. Practices are based on interviews with principals of 8 of the 12 high schools who met eligibility criteria across rural West Virginia, a state in which one-half of all students are low-SES. Seven practices emerged from interviews. Practices are described in the context of previous research and theory. Rural schools striving to increase attendance could reduce student absenteeism and improve academic achievement by implementing and following through on best practices revealed in this article.

*Keywords:* attendance, low-socioeconomic status, practices, principals, rural high schools