Our Family Engagement Impact study has been investigating the relationship between pre-pandemic family engagement and current outcomes.

**KEY FINDINGS**

While student attendance and learning outcomes got worse during the pandemic, schools with strong family engagement experienced much smaller increases in chronic absenteeism and declines in attendance and achievement.

Average change in outcomes from 2018-19 to 2021-22

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Measure</th>
<th>Weak Engagement</th>
<th>Strong Engagement</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Chronic Absenteeism Rate</td>
<td>-3.5%</td>
<td>+15.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Student Attendance Rate</td>
<td>-2.6%</td>
<td>+9.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ELA Proficiency Rate</td>
<td>-8.5%</td>
<td>-6.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Math Proficiency Rate</td>
<td>-7.7%</td>
<td>-4.8%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Additional Key Data

★ A school’s pre-pandemic family engagement was more strongly related to chronic absenteeism than the percent of low-income students it serves.

★ These findings applied to different types of schools – elementary/middle/high; urban/suburban/rural; in low/mid/high poverty communities.

See the complete findings at BeALearningHero.org/Research
Data Sources & Methodology

★ Strength of family engagement is measured using the Involved Families index on the 5Essentials teacher survey, which is administered statewide in Illinois. We determined this was the best data source for a comprehensive analysis after a series of nearly 20 interviews with family engagement leaders and scholars.

★ Strong family engagement is for a typical school that scored in the 90th percentile on the Involved Families score. Weak family engagement is for a typical school in the 10th percentile.

★ We used statistical models for this analysis, controlling for a wide range of publicly-available data on school and community characteristics.

★ You can see a complete report on our methodology on our website.

More Research Coming Soon

★ The second stage of this study will be a qualitative analysis to reveal which family engagement practices, policies, and mindsets led to better-than-expected pandemic-era outcomes.

★ In the third stage we will develop and test a new tool that can be used by educators, policymakers, and researchers to measure the strength of a school's family engagement efforts.

See the complete findings at BeALearningHero.org/Research