

Getting in Touch with Hard-to-Reach Parents

Is your school having trouble getting contact information for parents or guardians of chronically absent students? Check out these tried and true tips from teachers, advocates and school officials.

Start with the basics:

- Ask students for their home phone number, as well as any relevant cell phone numbers
- Talk to a chronically absent student's siblings if you can't reach the actual student
- Obtain the parents email address at the beginning of the school year
- Speak with the school counselor and/or social worker to see if they can provide any information
- Ask the front office or the school nurse for updated information

Seek out the parents:

- For younger children, approach the person who picks up the child
- Send a note home informing parents that they need to provide up to date emergency numbers and contact information

Get creative:

- If an event is coming up that parents are likely to call about, such as school picture day, be sure to alert the office staff to ask parents for their contact information
- Use address information to find and get in touch with families who live near chronically absent kids whose parents you are having a hard time reaching
- Talk with coaches and club leaders because they often have updated contact information