Addressing Absenteeism

This document outlines key considerations for stakeholders when evaluating the adoption of the *Responsive Classroom* approach to teaching and discipline.

1 **Increase feelings of belonging.**

Create welcoming school and classroom environments where students feel accepted and appreciated.

- For example, more student work should be displayed in the building instead of keeping student work digital.

In middle schools, lead regularly scheduled Responsive Advisory Meetings.

- Ten to fifteen students meet with a teacher they might know from a different part of their school day for about twenty minutes.
- The teacher leads them through an arrival welcome, announcements, acknowledgments, and an activity.
- Educators appreciate the opportunity to get to know students better, and students respond enthusiastically to feeling seen and heard by an adult at school.

2 **Use Kaleidoscope to provide a holistic view of the school or district.**

Kaleidoscope is an online tool that provides feedback on how effectively a school implements Responsive Classroom practices schoolwide.

- Identify areas of strength and growth.
- Pair with a Consultant Observation and Feedback Visit.

3 **Refine community-building practices with book studies.**

- Yardsticks to better understand the common developmental characteristics of elementary and middle school students.
- The Power of Our Words and The Power of Our Words for Middle School to help educators improve how they communicate with students.
- The Morning Meeting Book
- The Responsive Advisory Meeting Book

Explore a success story: A. Vito Martinez Middle School: Reducing Absenteeism by Increasing Engagement