Family and Community Engagement Office

Board of Education Meeting

April 4, 2013

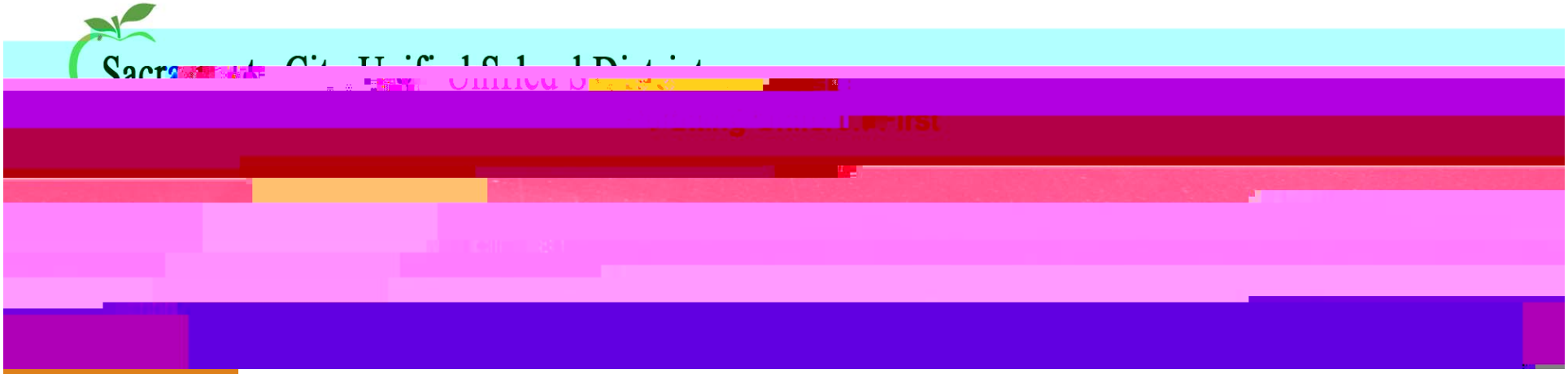
Chronic Absence in SCUSD*

Barbara Kronick, Interim Co-Chief
Lawrence Shweky, Coordinator

***Slides adapted from presentations by Attendance Works, UC Davis and Community Link**

Overview of Tonight's Presentation

- What is chronic absence and why should we care?
- How common is chronic absence in SCUSD?
- How can we reduce chronic absence?
- How is SCUSD addressing chronic absence?
- Discussion



Chronic Absence Risks

- **Students chronically absent in both kindergarten and first grade are less likely to read proficiently in 3rd grade**

  (Applied Survey Research & Attendance Works, 2011, Buehler et all, Attendance Works, 2012)

- **Chronically absent 6th graders have lower graduation rates**

  (Baltimore Education Research Consortium SY 2009-2010)

- **9th grade attendance predicts graduation rates for students of all economic backgrounds**

  (Allensworth & Easton, *What Matters* **SY** *E*

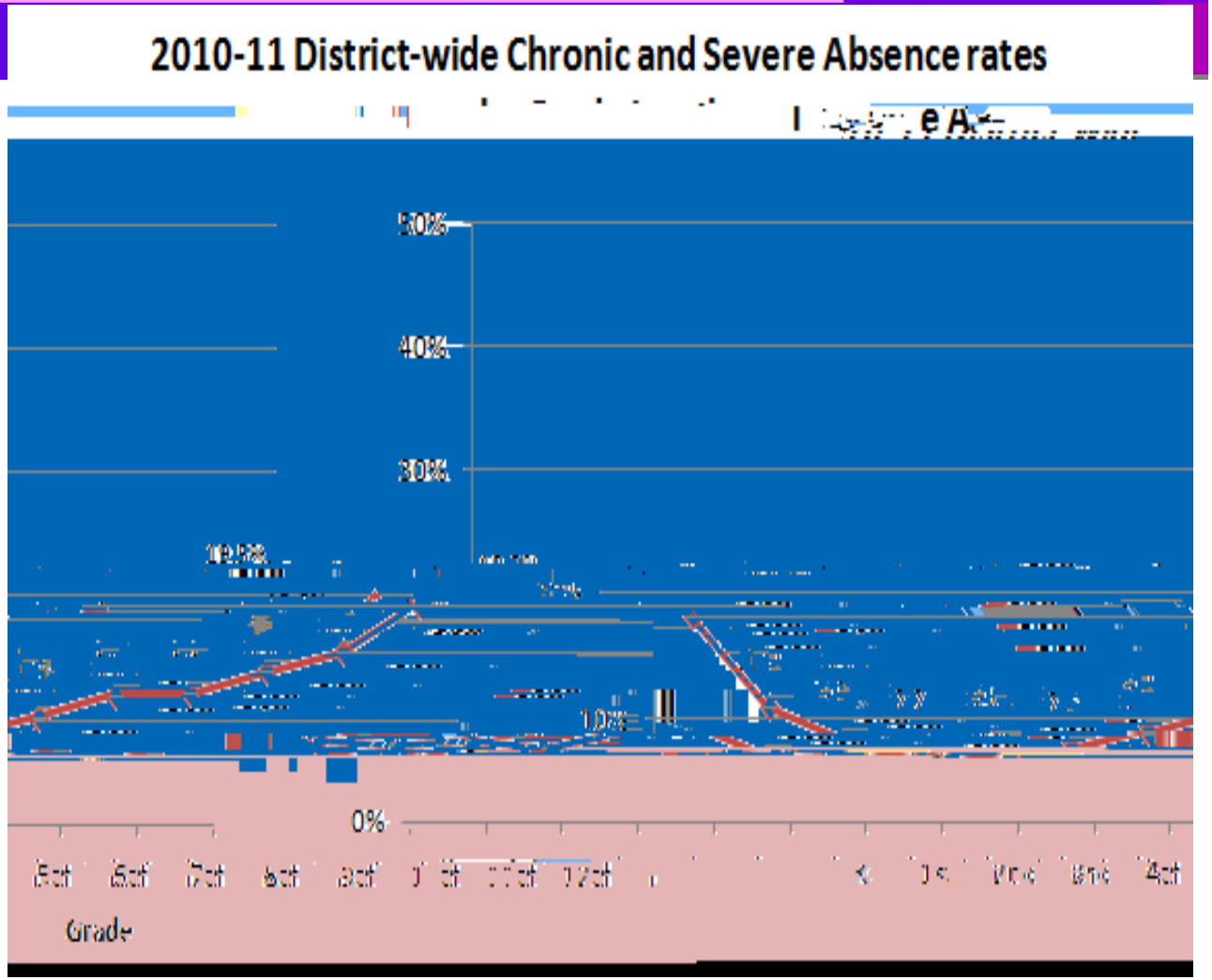
Chronic Absence Risks

Poor attendance is associated with:

- Increased sense of disconnection from peers, teachers and schools
- Tobacco, alcohol and drug use
- Future

Chronic Absence Rates at SCUSD

In 2010-11, more than 1 in 10 SCUSD students were chronically or severely absent.



Chronic Absence Rates at SCUSD

Based on 2010π11 SCUSD Data:

1. Chronic absence is unevenly distributed across neighborhoods and schools.

2. Chronic absence rates are upwards to 20% for some sub-groups.

3. Chronic absence costs the district learning and revenue.

What Leads to Chronic Absence?

Knowledge

- Parents don't understand how missing just 10% of school can cause academic trouble
- School hasn't created a strong culture of attendance

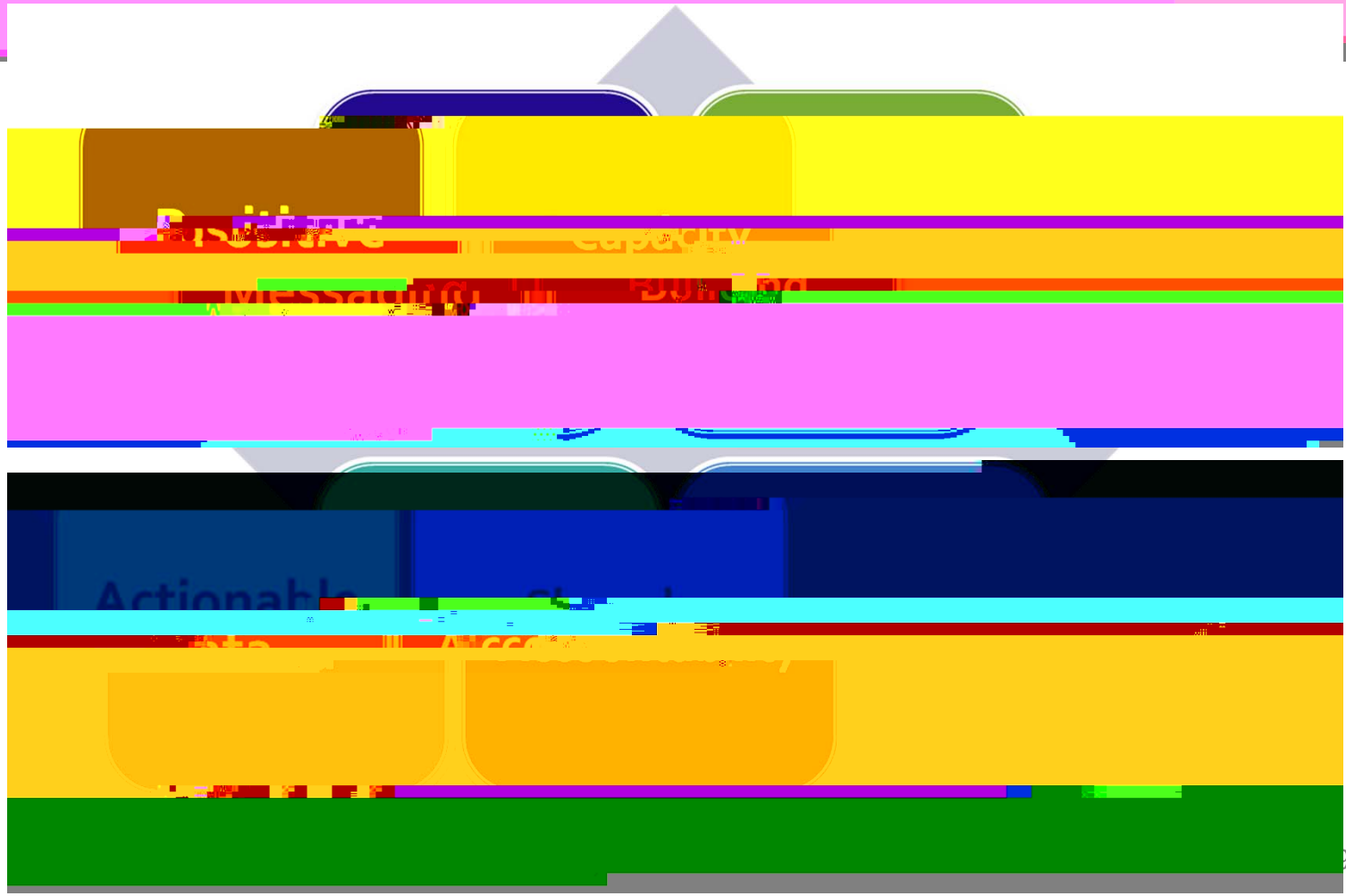
Avoidance

- Student is struggling academically
- Student is being bullied

Barriers

- Lack of access to health care
- No safe path to school
- Poor transportation

Ingredients for Success



Workplan Strategies

Positive Messaging

- Schools recognize good and improved attendance
- Schools work to develop a positive culture of attendance
- Students and families receive personalized, early and supportive outreach

Capacity Building

- Staff understand what chronic absence is as well as how to address it
- Schools have teams in place that regularly review attendance

Workplan Strategies

Actionable Data

- Attendance data are entered accurately on a daily basis for every student
- Analyses of chronic absence are calculated monthly for our district by grade, school and zip code
- Students and parents are supported to access their own attendance data in a format that is easy to understand

Shared Accountability

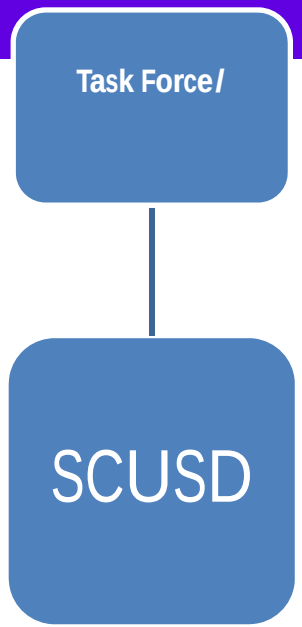
- The Superintendent and Board establish annual district-wide goals for reducing chronic absence
- District and community stakeholders meet regularly to review chronic absence data and discuss strategies for addressing the issue at multiple levels

Workplan Strategies

Recognize Good and Improved Attendance

Engage Students and Parents

District Focus Areas



Timeline of Activities

2010–11 – Laying the Groundwork

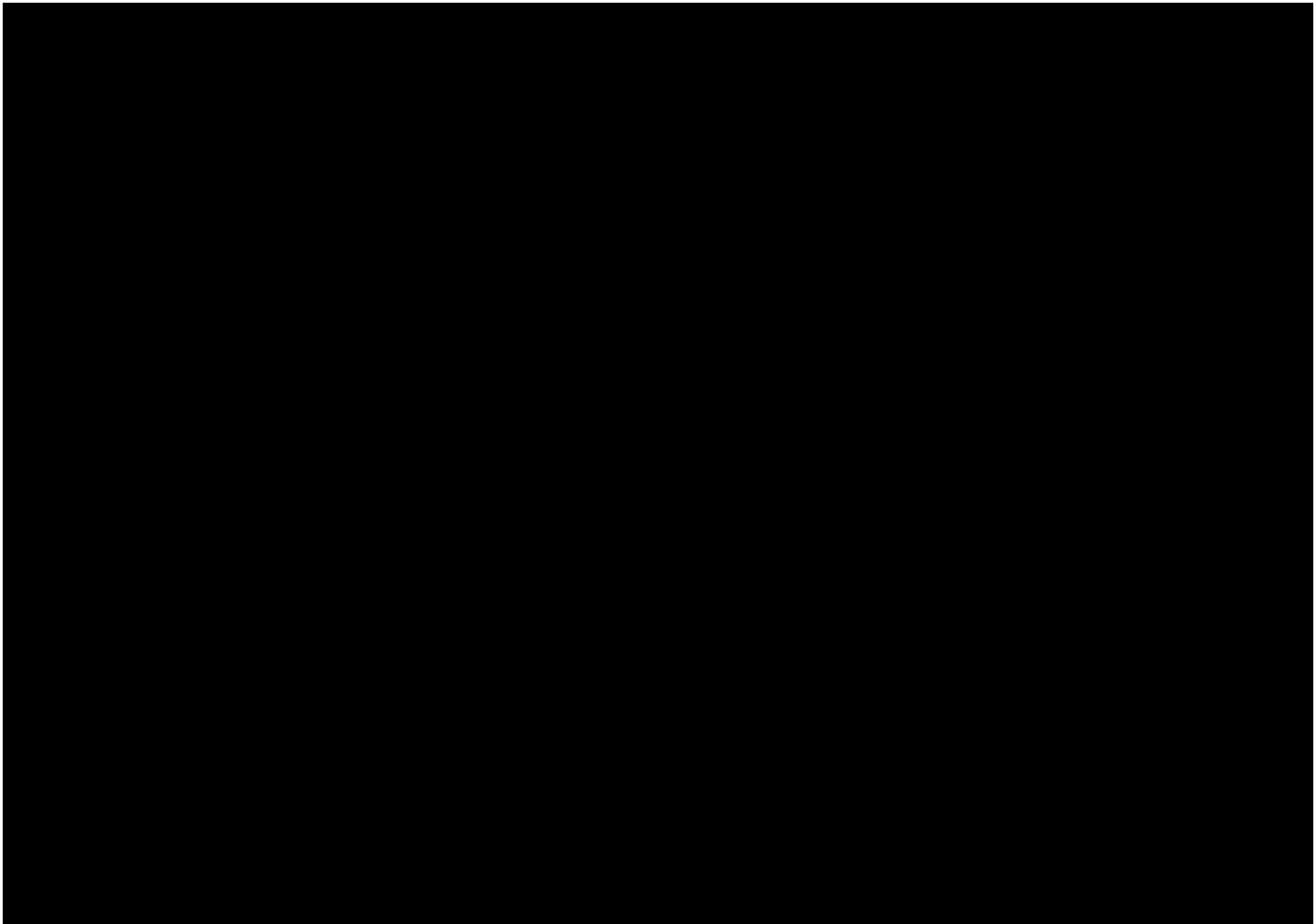
- Issue of Chronic Absence brought to attention of district by The California Endowment Building Healthy Communities initiative

- District convenes [illegible]

Timeline of Activities

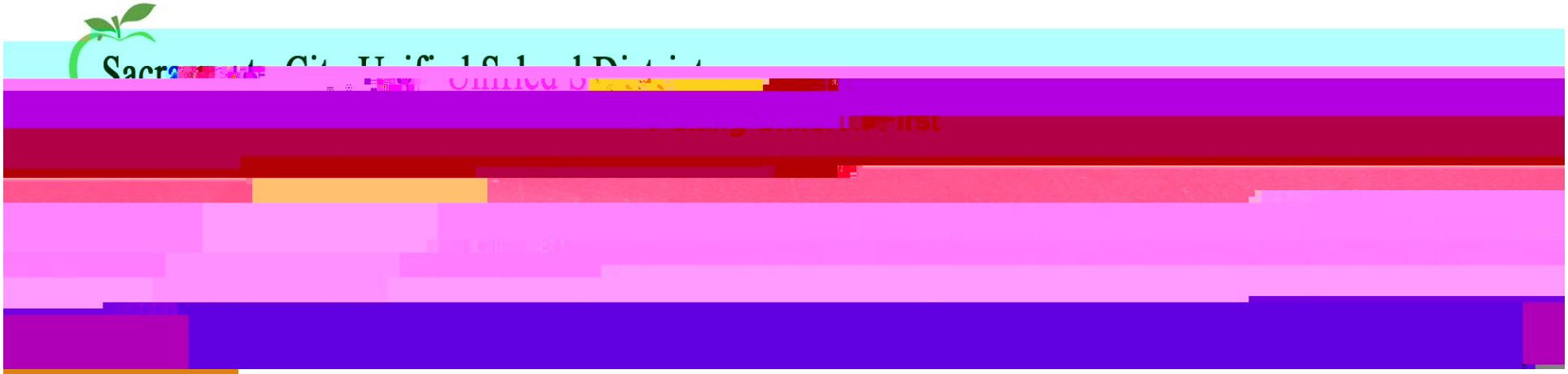
2011π12 – Research and Data Analysis

- Research and data analysis conducted using 2010-11 SCUSD data
- Consultation with principals regarding format for site level data
- Site level data and policy briefs prepared



Next Steps

- Finalize workplan after incorporating feedback from Board, staff and community partners (April 17, 3-5pm)
- Distribute issue briefs and share research widely
- Launch second phase of data analysis focused on 11-12 and 12-13 data
- Focus on populations with high rates of chronic absence including foster and homeless youth
- Implement workplan beginning in August 2013



Thank You!

We want to thank everyone involved with this project, including the many SCUSD staff that devoted their time and energy. We especially want to acknowledge the following individuals:

- Hedy Chang, Attendance Works
- Nancy Erbstein, UC Davis Center for Regional Change/Department of Human Ecology
- Alan Lange, Community Link
- Ken McPeters, SCUSD Attendance Coordinator
- Rebecka Hagerty, SCUSD Research Specialist

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Chronic Absence Project

Questions and Discussion

To access policy briefs please visit:

regionalchange.ucdavis.edu/projects/current/chronic-absence-scusd