

After spending time with families to understand their actual needs, I realized that the solution to chronic absenteeism could neither decouple students from their families nor families from their communities and contexts. We needed to see families.

—Shadae Thomas Harris, p. 22

Oftentimes, because they are chronically absent, these students' voices are missing in survey data.

Conducting a focus group or an empathy interview with students (and potentially their families) may help to gather additional information.

—Jennifer Ciok, p. 28

Environments where children are active participants in their learning as opposed to passive recipients of information yield 100 percent engagement.

—Amy Holcombe and Steve Wozniak, p.16

I learned a career-shaping lesson about class conversations that first year: *always be ready for nobody to have done “the reading.”* With this, our discussions can survive in the face of absenteeism that can be both unpredictable and pervasive.

—Matthew R. Kay, p. 34

