KIDS ON TRACK: AN EARLY WARNING SYSTEM

**ON TRACK**

- **BIRTH TO 8**
  - Home health visits and quality preschool ↑ odds of achieving early milestones

- **9 TO 17**
  - The Good Behavior Game, PeaceBuilders, and other alternatives to suspension improve school climate while keeping kids in school

- **18 TO 24**
  - Community based substance abuse and mental health treatment programs ↓ risk for initial arrest and re-offense

**OFF TRACK**

- **BIRTH TO 8**
  - Chronic absenteeism in Kindergarten ↓ acquisition of language and social skills

- **9 TO 17**
  - Being suspended from school 2x risk of dropout and 3x likelihood of contact with the juvenile justice system

- **18 TO 24**
  - Each additional 1yr in prison produces a 2yr decline in life expectancy

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**BELOW GRADE READING BY 3RD GRADE**

**HIGH SCHOOL DROPOUT**

**CAREER OR COLLEGE**

**LONG-TERM UNEMPLOYMENT OR JAIL**
Childhood and adolescence are key developmental periods in life. A healthy start can put young people on the right path for success in education, career, and family. But when things go off-track, it can be difficult to recover. Research suggests that achieving three important milestones are especially essential:

- Entering Kindergarten ready to learn
- Attending school regularly, avoiding absence, truancy and suspension
- Avoiding arrest, incarceration and other involvement with the criminal justice system.

This document suggest several resources for Attorneys General interested in learning more about helping young people achieve these key milestones.

**Entering Kindergarten Ready to Learn**

Home visits by nurses and community health workers have been proven to prevent child abuse and reduce the risk that children served will be arrested as adults.


Quality preschool programs reduce drop-out rates and lifetime risk for arrest.


**Third grade reading matters.**

- Studies shows that third grade reading proficiency is the most important predictor of high school graduation and career success. Learn more online at www.GradeLevelReading.net.

**Attending School Regularly, Avoiding Absence, Truancy and Suspension**

School attendance is influenced by many factors, including health, family and community supports, student behavior, and interactions with the criminal justice system.

- The California Dropout Research Project, based at the University of California, Santa Barbara, offers a wealth of research about the drivers of school attendance and the causes of dropout. Available online at http://www.cdrp.ucsb.edu.

High suspension rates do not improve classroom environments or increase academic achievement.


Alternatives to suspension that teach students good behavior while keeping them in school work better. They create calmer classrooms, increase achievement, and reduce risk for drug abuse and violent behavior.


**Avoid Arrest, Incarceration, and Other Involvement with the Criminal Justice System**

Juvenile incarceration increases risk for future arrest and criminal behavior.