

Immunizations and the School Nurse

Jen Harrington, BSN, RN, NCSN, AE-C



Immunization responsibilities of the School Nurse

- Yearly training course for licensed facilities
- Support health assistants (HA) in collecting immunization records and exemptions
- Resource to parents regarding immunizations
- Support HA in sending requirement letters, emails, phone calls



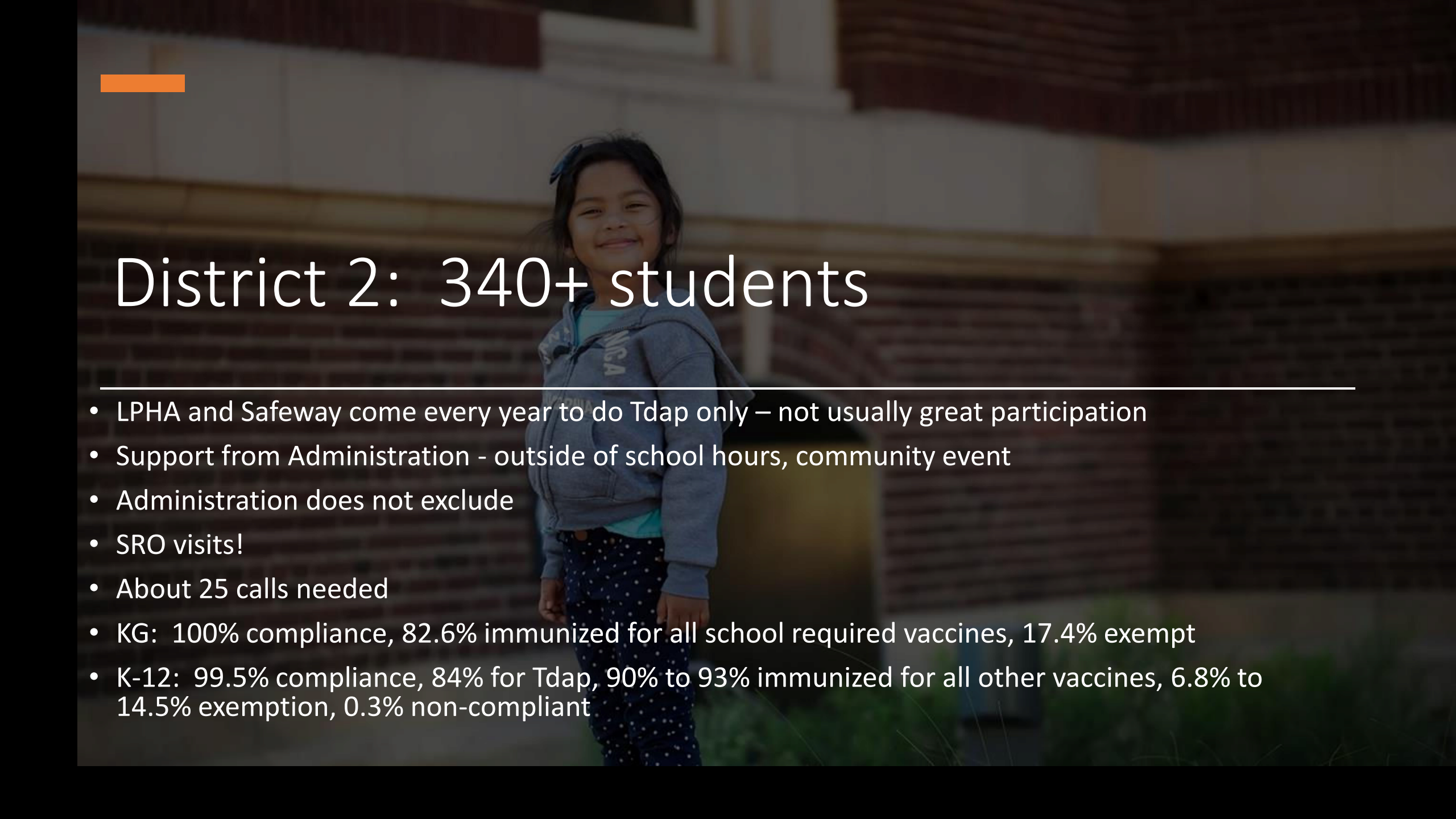
Immunization responsibilities of the School Nurse

- Provide resources for exemption or places to get vaccinated and educate families on process
- Work with administration on whether to exclude
- Collect and report immunization data by Jan 15th
- Report data to school administrators
- Monitor vaccine preventable diseases in school and know which students may need to stay home in an outbreak.



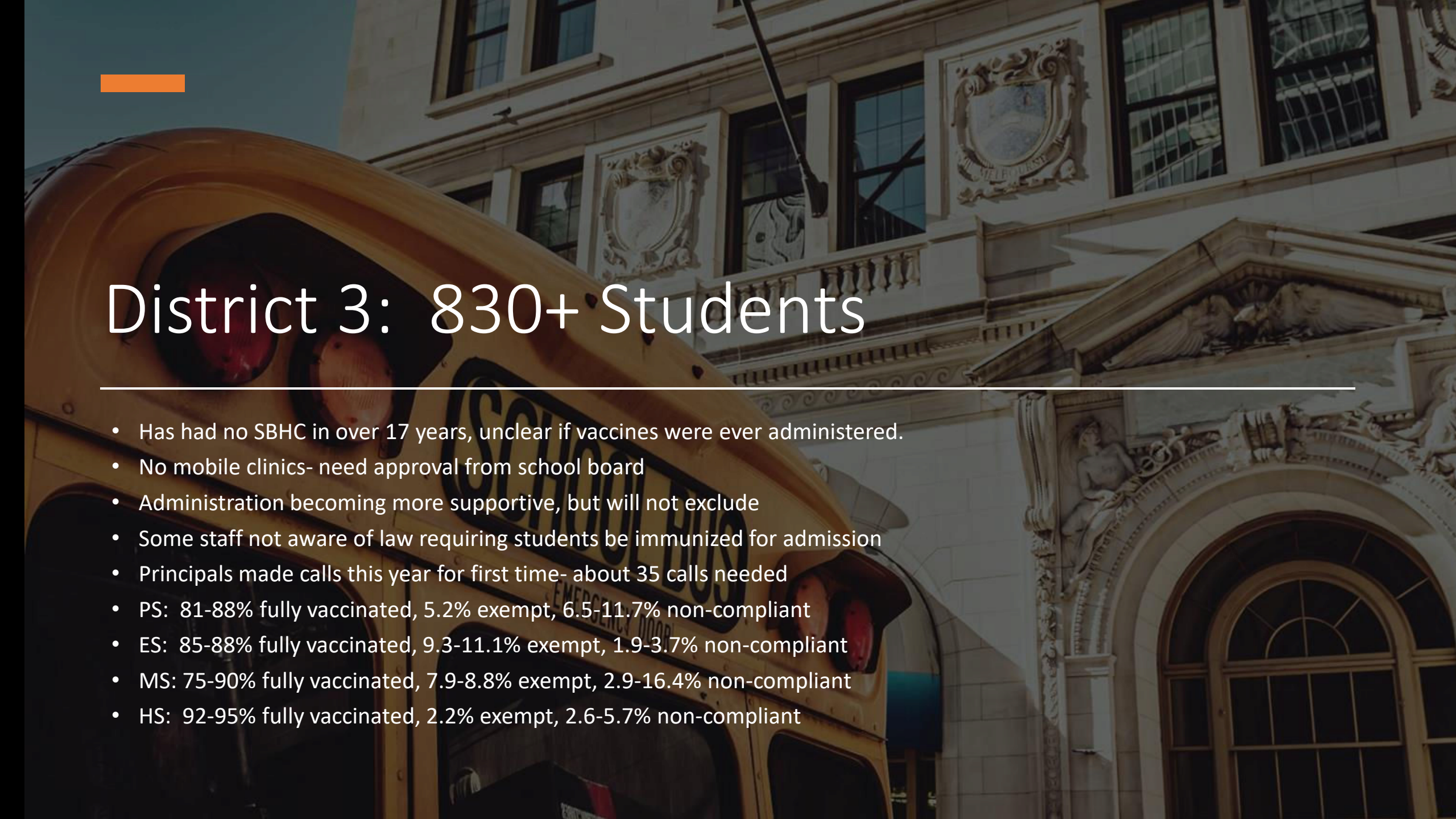
District 1: 27,000+ students

- 2016 had back to school event, included vaccine clinic through the SBHC – 3 people attended, event cancelled from then on.
- 2020 had Covid vaccine clinic run by LPHA, poor attendance, no further clinics held.
- Administration had excluded in past, looked at data, don't exclude anymore though aware of audit possibility.
- Not using SBHC to fullest extent per district nurses
- About 150 phone calls needed
- HS: 98.6 compliant, 97-99% fully immunized, 0.8-1.5% exempt, 0.3-0.9% non-compliant. MS: 91-96% fully, 1.7-3.8% exempt 1.2-4.6% non-compliant. ES: 97.3-98.2% fully, 1.8-2.7% exempt, 0 non-compliant

A young girl with dark hair, wearing a grey hoodie and dark pants with white polka dots, stands in front of a brick building. The background is slightly blurred. In the top left corner, there is a small orange rectangular graphic.

District 2: 340+ students

- LPHA and Safeway come every year to do Tdap only – not usually great participation
- Support from Administration - outside of school hours, community event
- Administration does not exclude
- SRO visits!
- About 25 calls needed
- KG: 100% compliance, 82.6% immunized for all school required vaccines, 17.4% exempt
- K-12: 99.5% compliance, 84% for Tdap, 90% to 93% immunized for all other vaccines, 6.8% to 14.5% exemption, 0.3% non-compliant

The background of the slide features a yellow school bus on the left and a classical building facade with arched windows and decorative carvings on the right. An orange horizontal bar is located in the top left corner.

District 3: 830+ Students

- Has had no SBHC in over 17 years, unclear if vaccines were ever administered.
- No mobile clinics- need approval from school board
- Administration becoming more supportive, but will not exclude
- Some staff not aware of law requiring students be immunized for admission
- Principals made calls this year for first time- about 35 calls needed
- PS: 81-88% fully vaccinated, 5.2% exempt, 6.5-11.7% non-compliant
- ES: 85-88% fully vaccinated, 9.3-11.1% exempt, 1.9-3.7% non-compliant
- MS: 75-90% fully vaccinated, 7.9-8.8% exempt, 2.9-16.4% non-compliant
- HS: 92-95% fully vaccinated, 2.2% exempt, 2.6-5.7% non-compliant

Challenges to Student Immunization

- Lack of administrative support
- Lack of access (2 of the districts discussed today are rural/frontier)
- Conservative leaning communities
- Mistrust of pharmaceutical companies (Covid did not help)
- Social media/peer to peer (mis)information
- Lack of enforcement of state law requiring vaccines or exemption for school admission
- Being compliant does not mean good immunization rates
- Vaccine clinics/mobile clinics need follow up



Possible Solutions

- Publicity for Mobile clinics and the new toolbox!
- Registrars & Administration follow flow sheet of Immunization Law
- Peer to peer groups
- Health classes in school
- Hear from people who have immigrated or military personnel
- Audits and enforcement of the law
- Incentives
- “It wasn’t logic that made people anti-vaccine and logic will not be able to pull them out”
- 2 student success stories



