



Achievement First Students Receiving Cartwheel Services See 38% Drop in Chronic Absenteeism

81% of students maintained or improved their behavior after Cartwheel. 73% of students with prior out-of-school suspensions had zero suspensions afterwards. Measurable outcomes for students and schools.

Achievement First is one of the largest urban charter networks in the country—41 schools across Connecticut, New York, and Rhode Island, serving 15,000 students. The majority of students are Black, Latinx, and from low-income families.

Achievement First was navigating a challenge shared by many large networks: growing student mental health needs and not enough resources to meet them. Long waitlists, language and cultural barriers, and limited access to culturally responsive clinicians were leaving students without the tier 2 and tier 3 support they needed to stay in school and succeed.

Achievement First was looking for a partner who could fit into their existing MTSS model, deliver linguistically and culturally matched care across three states, reduce burden on school staff, and provide data to demonstrate impact.



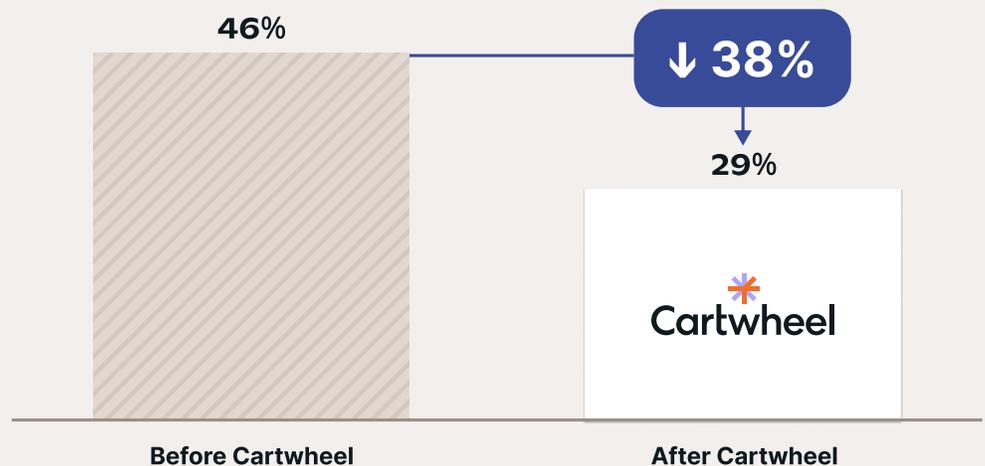
Achievement First
Public Charter Schools
CT, NY, RI

15,000 students
across 41 schools

76% free/reduced
lunch

Sample size: n=28 students who attended 6–15 therapy sessions with Cartwheel during the 2023–24 and 2024–25 school years (about the average and median number of Cartwheel sessions in the district). First bar shows % of students attending 6–15 Cartwheel sessions who were chronically absent in the year they were referred for services. The second bar shows chronic absenteeism rate in the school year after they started therapy for students who attended 6–15 sessions. Chronic absenteeism defined as missing at least 10% of school days within an academic year.

Absences per Student Before vs. After Cartwheel



↓ 38%
Reduction
in chronic
absenteeism

↓ 55%
Reduction in
absences

↓ 73%
Of students with
prior out-of-school
suspensions had
none after
Cartwheel

What Makes Cartwheel Different



Specialized for school outcomes

Therapy, psychiatry, and family support focused on school avoidance, anxiety, depression, and behavioral challenges.



Rapid access to care

Students are matched with clinicians in 7–10 days instead of waiting months.



Integrated with school teams

Ongoing collaboration with counselors and social workers, shared strategies, and real-time progress updates.



Sustainable through insurance

No costs for families on Medicaid; in-network with military and commercial insurers.



Multilingual care

Students are matched with a clinician who speaks their native language.

What Educators Are Saying

"Cartwheel is the best kind of partner. They are well informed in how school districts work, what our funding looks like, what we're able to do, what we are not able to do. They understand the way that schools function, especially from the financial end—and they are open to adapting to the needs of their clients."



Tiffany Bostic, LCSW

Chief of Support Services,
Achievement First

"This partnership allows us to keep our students in the building. It helped them with their wellness. It helped them build their confidence, and it helps remove barriers to academic and social achievement. And that's what you want to be investing in."



Tiffany Bostic, LCSW

Chief of Support Services,
Achievement First