



# **Counting Every Day:**

Making the Most of California's Absenteeism Data



- I. Welcome and Introduction
- 2. Chronic absence as the key to re-engagement in learning
- 3. Overview of California attendance data
- 4. Strategic questions to answer with data
- 5. Using data to drive improvement Monterey County Office of Education





- Highlight available state absenteeism data
- Examine which districts, schools and student groups are disproportionately impacted by accessing DataQuest (SY 2022-23) and local student information systems (for more current data)
- Build shared knowledge and communication
- Identify opportunities to leverage absence data to meet LEA goals and priorities, including LCAPs





# What's your role?

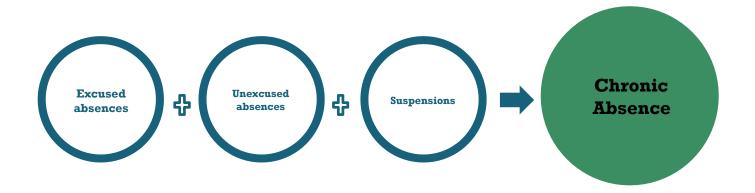
- Attendance and student services
- County Office of Education
- Dashboard coordinators
- Data/IT expert
- Parent/youth organization
- School board member
- School site leader
- Superintendents/assistant superintendents
- Other





# What is chronic absence?

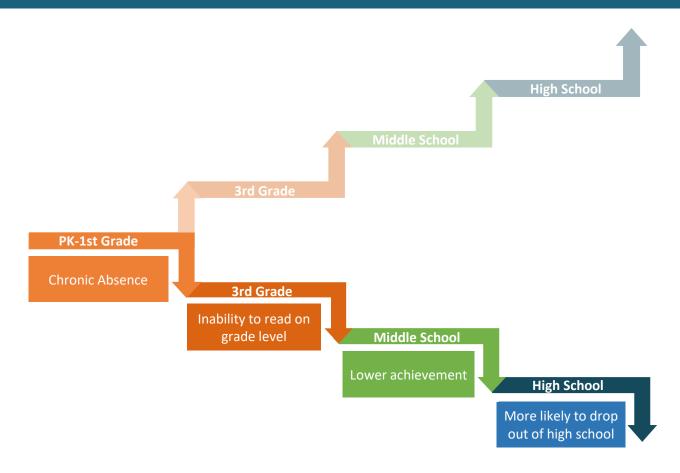
Chronic absence is missing so much school for any reason that a student is academically at risk. Chronic absence is defined as missing 10 percent or more of school for any reason.



Chronic absence is different from truancy (unexcused absences only) or average daily attendance (how many students show up to school each day).



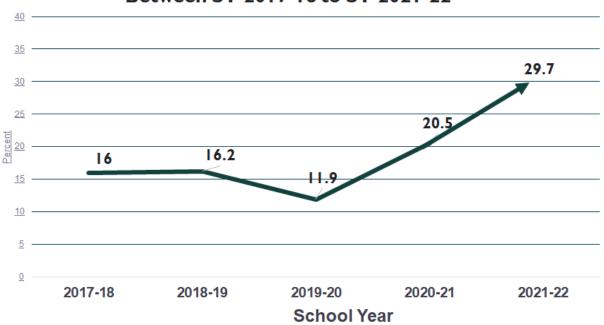
# **Improving Attendance Matters**





# **Chronic Absence Trends**

# Percentage of Students Chronically Absent Nearly Doubled Nationwide Between SY 2017-18 to SY 2021-22



- ✓ The number of chronically absent students grew from 8,095,132 to 14,660,261.
- ✓ Increases are occurring in tandem with significant drops in achievement
- ✓ Chronic absence is higher than ever, especially in early elementary and high school
- ✓ Early data from 2022–23 indicate rates remain high



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The dramatic rise in chronic absence at the school level requires whole school, systemic responses.

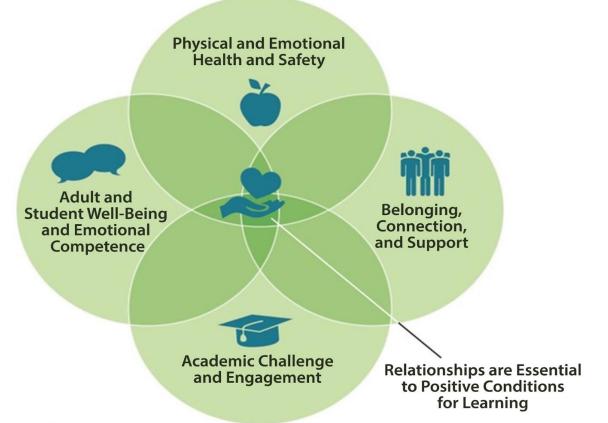
# The vast majority of students in SY 2021-22 (66.5%) vs 25% in SY 2017-18 attend a school with high or extreme levels of chronic absence

2017-18						2021-22	ı				
Nationwide School Chronic Absence Levels	# School s		Total Enrollmen	Absent	Percent of Chronically Absent Students	Nationwide School Chronic		Total Enrollme	Percent		
Extreme Chronic Absence (30%+)	12,493	5.264.967	10.6%	2,459,025	30.5%	Absence Levels	# Schools	nt		Absent Students	Absent Students
High Chronic Absence (20-	12,473	3,204,767	10.6%	2,457,025		Extreme Chronic Absence (30%+)	39,890	20,633,834	42.5%	9,687,006	66.3%
29.9%)	12,419	7,440,326	15.0%	1,800,916	22.4%	High Chronic Absence (20-29.9%)	20,489	11,617,225	24.0%	2,887,822	19.8%
Significant Chronic Absence (10-19.9%)	31,651	18,506,052	37.3%	2,664,863	33.1%	Significant Chronic Absence (10-		11,321,227		1,724,350	11.8%
Modest Chronic Absence (5- 9.9%)	22,426	12,346,931	24.9%	929,253		Modest Chronic Absence (5-9.9%)	·				
Low Chronic Absence (0-4.9%)	12,134	6,058,173	12.2%	197,182	2.4%	Low Chronic Absence (0-4.9%)	3,307	1,496,370	3.1%	42,225	0.3%
Total (n)	91,123	49,616,449	100.0%	8,051,239	100.0%	Total (n)	92,177	48,493,425	100.0%	14,608,525	100.0%

https://www.attendanceworks.org/rising-tide-of-chronic-absence-challenges-schools/



# High Levels of Chronic Absence Reflect a Deep Erosion in Positive Conditions for Learning

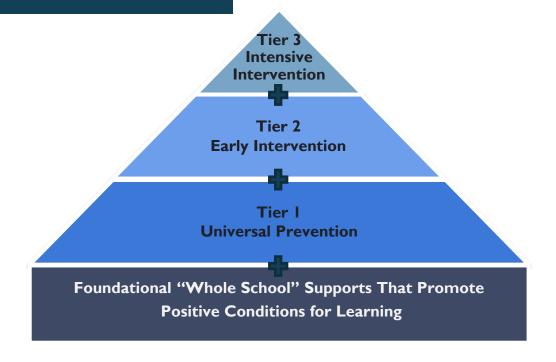








# Solution: A Tiered Approach to Engagement and Attendance





# Tiered Responses Must Address Underlying Causes of **Absenteeism**

#### **Barriers**

- Chronic and acute illness
- Family responsibilities or home situation
- Trauma
- Poor transportation
- Housing and food insecurity
- Inequitable access to needed services (including health)
- System involvement
- Lack of predictable schedules for learning
- Lack of access to technology
- Community violence

#### **Aversion**

- Struggling academically and/or behaviorally
- Unwelcoming school climate
- Social and peer challenges
- Anxiety
- · Biased disciplinary and suspension practices
- Undiagnosed disability and/or lack of disability accommodations
- Caregivers had negative educational experiences

## Disengagements

- Lack of challenging, culturally responsive instruction
- Bored
- No meaningful relationships to adults in the school (especially given staff shortages)
- Lack of enrichment opportunities
- Lack of academic and behavioral support
- Failure to earn credits
- Need to work conflicts with being in high school

## Misconceptions

- Absences are only a problem if they are unexcused
- Missing 2 days per month doesn't affect learning
- Lose track and underestimate TOTAL absences
- Assume students must stay home for any symptom of illness
- Attendance only matters in the older grades
- Suspensions don't count as absence



#### 2022-23 Chronic Absenteeism Rate

State Report
Disaggregated by Race/Ethnicity

- + Report Description
- + Report Glossary
- + Report Options and Filters

Race / Ethnicity	Chronic Absenteeism Eligible Enrollment	Chronic Absenteeism Count	Chronic Absenteeism Rate
African American	301,921	110,537	36.6%
American Indian or Alaska Native	26,551	9,647	36.3%
Asian	578,202	58,964	10.2%
Filipino	134,249	17,988	13.4%
Hispanic or Latino	3,344,977	966,459	28.9%
Pacific Islander	25,120	9,191	36.6%
White	1,221,741	241,143	19.7%
Two or More Races	263,620	56,315	21.4%
Not Reported	62,508	16,058	25.7%

#### Report Totals

Chronic Absenteeism Eligible Enrollment	Chronic Absenteeism Count	Chronic Absenteeism Rate
5,958,889	1,486,302	24.9%
	Absenteeism Eligible Enrollment	Absenteeism Eligible Enrollment Chronic Absenteeism Count

**Prioritize outreach** and engagement with groups that have the highest rates of chronic absence and largest number of chronically absent students so you can learn more about community assets and barriers to attendance.

www.attendanceworks.org

# Leveraging Chronic Absence Data for Strategic Decisions

#### **Assess Need**

 Use chronic absence data to inform how many and which schools need support.

# **Prioritize Students**

 Consider chronic absence data when identifying which students (groups and individuals) would benefit from support.

# Design Program

 Use data to activate deeper inquiry into what affects attendance in order to design meaningful tiered supports.

# **Assess Impact**

 Use chronic absence and attendance data to assess impact and engage in continuous improvement





# Chronic Absenteeism Rate Data



# What is the Chronic Absenteeism Rate?

- Represents the percentage of students who are chronically absent (miss 10 percent or more of days expected)
- Includes students in kindergarten through grade eight expected to attend at least 31 days
- Uses attendance data from the Student Absence Summary (STAS) file submitted by LEAs for the EOY3 collection
- Chronic Absenteeism data is reported in California's reporting website, DataQuest and on the California School Dashboard

# Differences Between DataQuest and the Dashboard for Chronic Absenteeism Rate

# **DataQuest**

- Use filters to report grade spans
- NPS included in LEA reports
- Use filters to include/exclude charter schools for authorizers
- Students with Disabilities are reported at the **District of** Attendance

# **Dashboard**

- Reports kindergarten through grade eight only
- NPS not included in LEA reports
- Charter schools excluded from authorizer's results
- Students with Disabilities are reported at the **District of Residence**

# Chronic **Absenteeism** Rate Indicator on the **Dashboard**



# **Chronic Absenteeism by Academic Year**

Academic Year	Chronic Absenteeism Eligible Enrollment	Chronic Absenteeism Count	Chronic Absenteeism Rate
2022–23	5,958,889	1,486,302	24.9%
2021–22	5,995,399	1,799,734	30.0%
2020–21	6,072,413	866,842	14.3%
2019–20	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	Not Applicable
2018–19	6,258,845	755,950	12.1%
2017–18	6,315,131	702,531	11.1%

# Kindergarten Chronic Absenteeism by Academic Year

Academic Year	Chronic Absenteeism Eligible Enrollment	Chronic Absenteeism Count	Chronic Absenteeism Rate
2022–23	516,681	187,719	36.3%
2021–22	491,961	198,866	40.4%
2020–21	481,906	75,351	15.6%
2019–20	N/A	N/A	N/A
2018–19	541,479	84,702	15.6%
2017–18	550,952	78,054	14.2%

# What is the Absenteeism by Reason Report?

- This report provides a total count of eligible students included in the absence calculations (Eligible Cumulative Enrollment) and a count of students who missed one or more days of school between July 1 and June 30 (Count of Students with one or more Absences).
- The total number of absences (Total Days Absent) is calculated from the Count of Students with One or More Absences.
- From the Total Days Absent, the count of absences by type of absence are calculated for the four different types of absences:
  - Excused Absences
  - Unexcused Absences
  - Out-of-School Suspension Absences
  - Incomplete Independent Study Absences

# Absenteeism by Reason by Academic Year (1)

Academic Year	Chronic Absenteeism Eligible Enrollment	Count of Students with One or More Absences	Average Days Absent
2022–23	5,958,889	5,536,799	14.6
2021–22	5,995,399	5,544,045	16.7
2020–21	6,072,413	4,234,221	13.3
2019–20	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	Not Applicable
2018–19	6,258,845	5,521,652	9.8
2017–18	6,315,131	5,490,265	9.3

# Absenteeism by Reason by Academic Year (2)

Acade Yea		Excused Absences	Unexcused Absences	Out-of-School Suspension Absences	Incomplete Independent Study Absences
2022	<b>–23</b>	54.7%	39.2%	0.9%	5.3%
2021	-22	51.3%	38.4%	0.7%	9.7%
2020-	<b>–21</b>	19.3%	72.3%	0.0%	8.4%
2019	<b>–20</b>	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	Not Applicable
2018	<b>–</b> 19	54.1%	39.5%	1.2%	5.2%
2017	<b>–18</b>	54.2%	39.2%	1.5%	5.1%

# **Scavenger Hunt Time!**

# Monterey County Research Practice Partnership

A Focus on Chronic Absenteeism







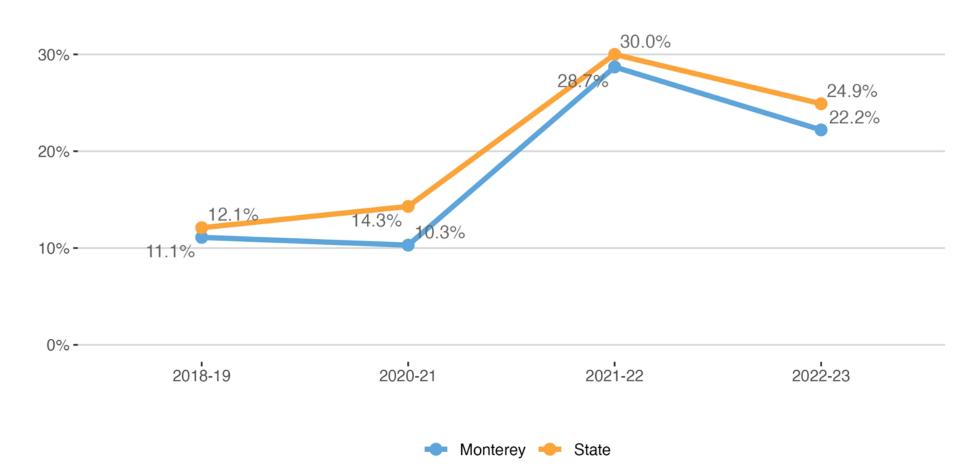








# Monterey County and California Chronic Absenteeism Rates





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MTSS and Special Education
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Matt Turkie
District and School Support
Liaison, Monterey COE



















Kari Yeater Superintendent, North Monterey County Unified School District



Jim Koenig Superintendent, Alisal Union School District



Dr. Rebeca Andrade Superintendent, Salinas City Elementary School District



Randy Bangs
Superintendent, Soledad
Unified School District

**General Education Teachers** 

**Special Education Teachers** 

Parent Liaisons

Counselors

**School Administrators** 

Attendance Clerks

**District Administrators** 

**Social Workers** 

**Data Teams** 

















# Partnership Timeline/Overview 2022-2023

# **Focus Groups**



# **Video Vignettes**

## **February**

Review data & causal factors

## March

Define PoP & change ideas

# **April**

Develop logic model & RPP plan

# Coaching

Narrow the focusroot cause analysis

# Coaching

Vision for short & long term goals

## Coaching

Refine logic model & RPP plan

# May/June

In-district Coaching & Follow-up Sessions

Finalize Empathy Study & Video

2023-24 Planning Meeting Dates



## Mental Models



## **Problems of Practice**



#### **Action Plans**







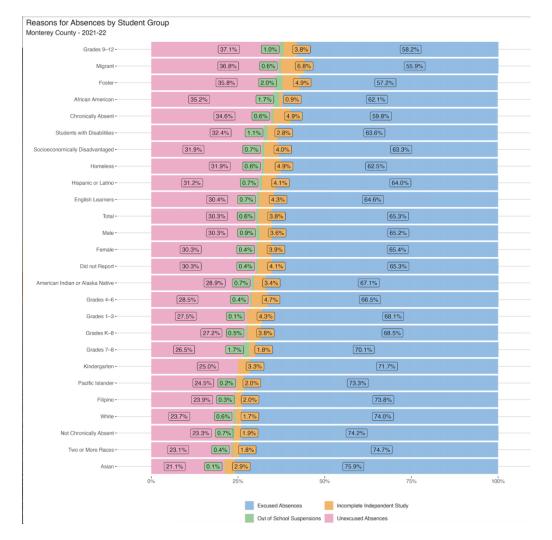












# Using data to tell the story:

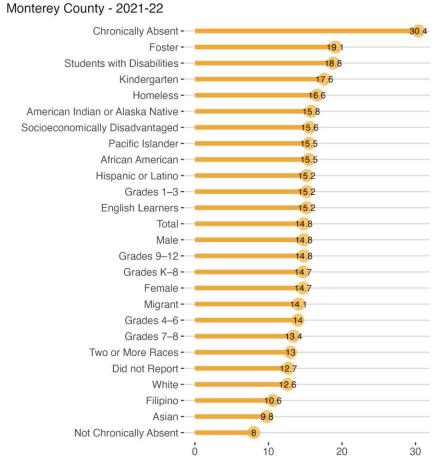
#### Quantitative Data:

- Reasons for absences
- Average days absent by student group and grade levels
- Percent chronically absent by student group and grade levels
- Color-coded calendar of absence rates on given days throughout the year
- Monthly review of SIS data

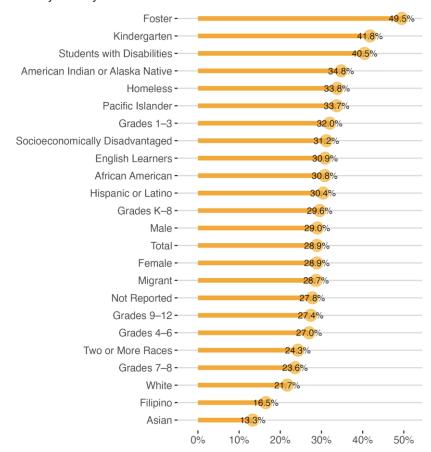
#### Qualitative Data:

- Focus Groups
- Empathy Interviews
- Video Vignettes

# Average Days Absent



## Percent Chronically Absent by Student Group Monterey County - 2021-22

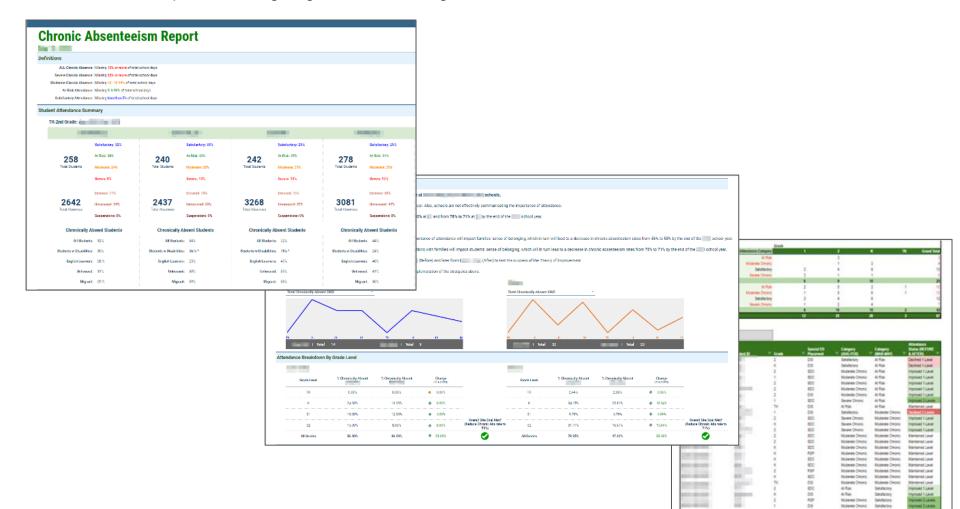


# Sample Participating District School Calendar Absences Rates

The more intense the Blue color, the larger the number of students absent

		Αl	JGU:	ST					SEP	TEM	BER					OC	тов	ER					NOV	/EMI	BER		
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sur	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	8	9	10	11	12	13					1	2	3							1			1	2	3	4	5
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	6	7		9	10	11	12
14	15	10	1.7	10	19	20	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	13	14	15	16	17	18	19
21	22	23	24	25	26	27	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
28	29	30	31											23	24	25	26	27	28	29	500						
	23	00	01				25	26	27	28	29	30		30	31						27	28	29	30			
		DEC	CEMI	BER					JA	NUA	RY					FEE	BRUA	ARY					М	ARC	Н		
Sun	Mon				Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon				Fri	Sat	Sur	ı Mon				Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon				Fri	Sat
Sun	Mon				Fri	Sat	Sun 1	Mon 2				Fri 6	Sat	Sur	ı Mon				Fri 3	Sat 4	Sun	Mon				Fri 3	Sat 4
Sun 4	Mon						Sun		Tue	Wed	Thu			Sur 5	n Mon			Thu					Tue	Wed	Thu 2	3	4
	Mon	Tue		Thu	9	3	1	2	Tue 3	Wed	Thu 5	6	7			Tue	Wed	Thu 2	3	4	Sun 5	Mon 6			Thu		
4	5.	Tue	Wed	Thu	9	3 10	1 8	2	Tue	4 11	Thu 5	6	7	5	6	Tue	Wed	Thu 2 9	3	4			Tue	Wed	Thu 2	3	4

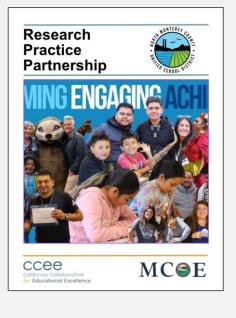
# The power of ongoing data monitoring... SIS data chats!



# **Empathy Study: April-June 2023**















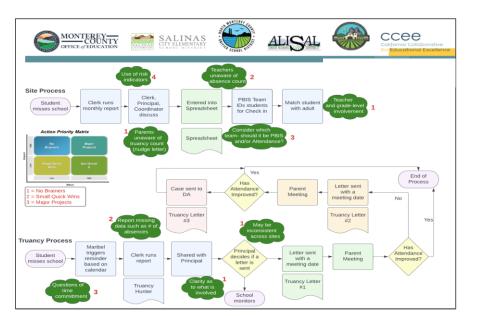








Potential Problem of Practice1: Communication with Families	Lack of clear communication/messaging with families about covid, attendance, IEP expectations ect.     liness - Perception that students cannot come to school if not feeling well for whatever reason     Students are anxious about being in public or leaving their families because of the pandemis scare     Families feel they need to protect their children and others and keep children home with the slightest symptom     Level of importance communicated to parents of students w/IEPs     Families fear illness.
Potential Problem of Practice 2: Relationships with Staff	Lack of a significant connection with an adult due to staff feeling overwhelmed and don't prioritize relationships     Lack of connection to class/teachers/classmates if they are pulled out often     Lack of relationships (teachers, students, family, staff)     Child larf feeling aupported at school
Potential Problem of Practice 3: Staffing - Consistency	The district is struggling to provide consistent staffing Students with IEPs tend to struggle with changes to staffing
Potential Problem of Practice 4: Transportation	Delay in transportation request     No alternate transportation to school     Bussing - students don't make the bus in time and never arrive
Potential Problem of Practice 6: Student/Peer Relationships	Students aren't coming to school because they feel unvalued and mistreated Bullying: students report others are being mean and disrespectful Students with IEP don't feel connected because they were virtual for 1-year and asked to distance Level of nothing of colluting statishished at school, classroom, playground Level of with social situations (developing relationships) Students report having a bad day Students may struggle with social interactions with peers Students with IEPs feel "less than" or inadequate compared to others



#### Sample Driver Diagram District document to clarify **Promoting** clarity in procedures **Decrease Policies &** Chronic **Procedures** Clarify policies (case carrier, parent) **Absenteeism** for SWD in Increase positive TK-1, 7th, interaction and 9th by Strengthening 10% by June Communication Make contact phone call 2024 with parent/families when SWD are absent. (home visit, zoom)

#### **Attendance Pyramid Worksheet**

	Family Engagement	Positive Student Engagement	Behavioral and Mental Health	Physical Health	Academic Support	Extended Learning	Basic Needs
Tier 3: Intensive Intervention	1:1 intakes "What is the main issue"		Behavioral technicians Social Worker Licensed Clinician				
Tier 2: Early Intervention	Preventative Meetings Empathy Interviews Home Visits	Incentives	Behavioral technicians		Tutoring IAs Small groups 1:1	After-school tutoring NEST Clubs	
Tier 1: Universal Prevention	Phone Call Informational Meeting (how it works)	Incentives  Better communication  School-wide acknowledgement system	Individual learning plans	Sports Outdoor activities Electives Recess, P.E.		Incentives	
Foundational Supports	Cafecitos		Psychologists & Counselors School based mental health	Nurse	NEST Counselors		Free Transportation Housing School Supplie Food

https://www.attendanceworks.org/chronic-absence/addressing-chronic-absence/3-tiers-of-intervention,

Adapted from format created by Nancy Erbstein, Associate Professor of Education in Residence, with the UC Davis Center for Regional Change and Sacramento City USD.

# **Drivers**

Fostering a strong sense of belonging to enhance attendance

Promoting clarity and understanding in policies and procedures

Strengthening communication and trust between educators and families

# **Sample Change Ideas**

School will incentivize perfect attendance. Different incentives based on grade level Different communication (cafecitos, school site council, social media) Parent education workshops and home visiting options Sick policy criteria Parent meetings. Inform parents what is

chronic absenteeism and why attendance matters

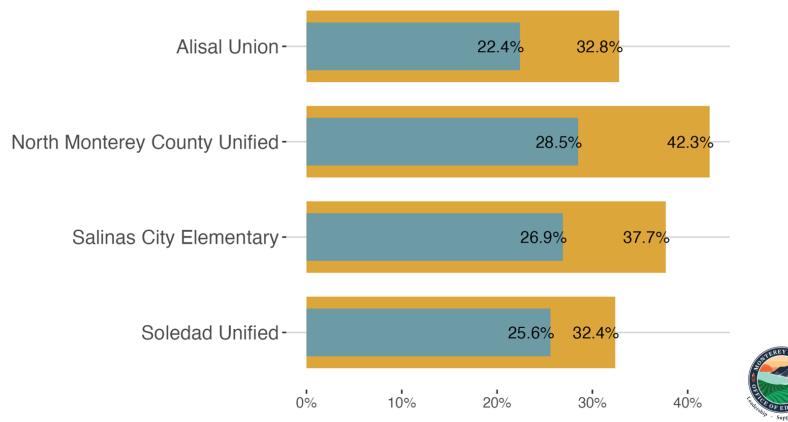
One to one parent and student contacts/connections 2x10 (ongoing progress monitoring)

Create a support team by site to address chronic absenteeism

Make contact phone call with parent/families when students with disabilities are absent (home visit, zoom)

Universal communication plan (podcasts, radio sports, swag bag toolkit, youtube video, web page design)

# Chronic Absenteeism Decreased in All Participating Districts Blue is 2022-23 and Yellow is 2021-22

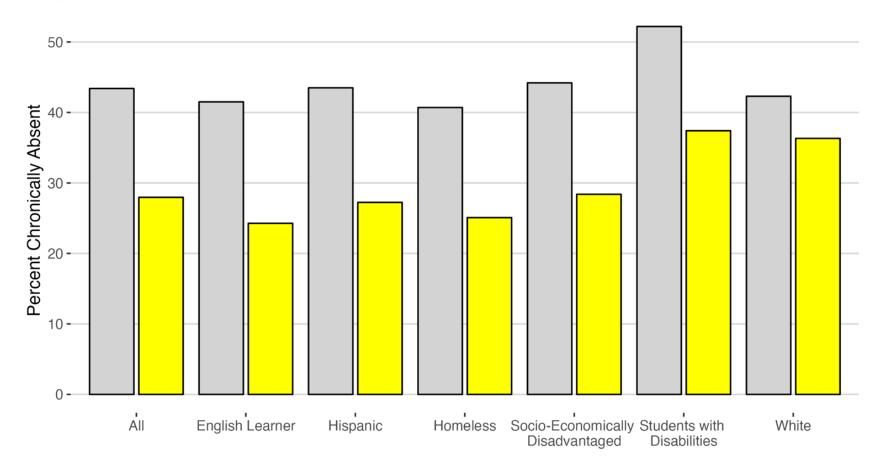




Source: DataQuest Research Files

# Sample Participating District

Gray is 2022 results and Colored bars are 2023 with the estimated Dashboard color



# Thank you!















# Questions from the Audience



