## Counting Every Day: Making the Most of California's Absenteeism Data

## Agenda

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

## Learning Goals

- 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 20I7-I 8 to SY 202I-22


2017-18

2019-20
School Year
$\sqrt{ }$ The number of chronically absent students grew from 8,095, 132 to $14,660,26 I$.
$\checkmark$ Increases are occurring in tandem with significant drops in achievement
$\sqrt{ }$ Chronic absence is higher than ever, especially in early elementary and high school
$\sqrt{ }$ Early data from 2022-23 indicate rates remain high

The vast majority of students in SY 202I-22 (66.5\%) vs $\mathbf{2 5 \%}$ in SY 20I7-I8 attend a school with high or extreme levels of chronic absence

| 2017-18 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Nationwide School Chronic Absence Levels | \# School | Total <br> Enrollment | Percent <br> Total <br> Enrollmen <br> t | No. of Chronically Absent Students | Percent of <br> Chronically <br> Absent <br> Students |  |  | Total |  | No. of Chronically | Percent of Chronically Absent |
| Extreme Chronic Absence $(30 \%+)$ | 12,493 | 5,264,967 | 10.6 | $2,459,025$ | 30.5\% | Nationwide School Chronic Absence Levels | \# Schools | Enrollme nt |  | bsent udents | Absent <br> Students |
| High Chronic Absence (20- |  |  |  |  |  | Extreme Chronic Absence (30\%+) | 39,890 | 20,633,834 | 42.5\% | 9,687,006 | 66.3\% |
| 29.9\%) | 12,419 | 7,440,326 | 5.0 | 1,800,916 | 22.4\% | High Chronic Absence (20-29.9\%) | 20,489 | II,617,225 | 24.0\% | 2,887,822 | 19.8\% |
| Significant Chronic Absence (10-19.9\%) | 31,651 | 18,506,052 |  | 2,664,863 | 33.1\% | Significant Chronic Absence (1019.9\%) | 21,380 | 11,321,227 | 23.3\% | 1,724,350 | 11.8\% |
| Modest Chronic Absence (59.9\%) | 22,426 | 12,346,93\| | 24.9\% | 929,253 | 11.5\% | 19.9\%) ${ }_{\text {Modest Chronic Absence (5-9.9\%) }}$ | 21,380 7,111 | 1,3,424,769 | 23.3\% 7.1\% | $1,724,350$ 267,122 | 1.8\% |
| 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

| Name | Chronic <br> Absenteeism <br> Eligible <br> Enrollment | Chronic <br> Absenteeism <br> Count | Chronic <br> Absenteeism <br> Rate |
| :--- | ---: | ---: | ---: |
| Statewide | $5,958,889$ | $1,486,302$ | $24.9 \%$ |

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.



## 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

LEARN MORE Chronic Absenteeism

```
All Students
State
```



High


View More Details $\rightarrow$

## Chronic Absenteeism by Academic Year

| Academic Year | Chronic <br> Absenteeism <br> Eligible <br> Enrollment | Chronic <br> Absenteeism <br> Count | Chronic <br> Absenteeism <br> Rate |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| $\mathbf{2 0 2 2 - 2 3}$ | $5,958,889$ | $\mathbf{1 , 4 8 6 , 3 0 2}$ | $\mathbf{2 4 . 9 \%}$ |
| $2021-22$ | $5,995,399$ | $1,799,734$ | $30.0 \%$ |
| $2020-21$ | $6,072,413$ | 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 <br> Year | Chronic <br> Absenteeism <br> Eligible <br> Enrollment | Chronic <br> Absenteeism <br> Count | Chronic <br> Absenteeism <br> Rate |
| :---: | ---: | ---: | :---: |
| $\mathbf{2 0 2 2 - 2 3}$ | 516,681 | $\mathbf{1 8 7 , 7 1 9}$ | $\mathbf{3 6 . 3 \%}$ |
| $2021-22$ | 491,961 | 198,866 | $40.4 \%$ |
| $2020-21$ | 481,906 | 75,351 | $15.6 \%$ |
| $2019-20$ | $\mathrm{~N} / \mathrm{A}$ | $\mathrm{N} / \mathrm{A}$ | $\mathrm{N} / \mathrm{A}$ |
| $2018-19$ | 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)

$\left.\begin{array}{|c|c|c|c}\text { Academic } \\ \text { Year }\end{array} \begin{array}{c}\text { Chronic } \\ \text { Absenteeism } \\ \text { Eligible Enrollment }\end{array} \begin{array}{c}\text { Sount of } \\ \text { Students with } \\ \text { One or More } \\ \text { Absences }\end{array} \begin{array}{c}\text { Average } \\ \text { Days } \\ \text { Absent }\end{array}\right]$

Absenteeism by Reason by Academic Year (2)

| Academic <br> Year | Excused <br> Absences | Unexcused <br> Absences | Out-of-School <br> Suspension <br> Absences | Incomplete <br> Independent <br> Study <br> Absences |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| $2022-23$ | $54.7 \%$ | $39.2 \%$ | $0.9 \%$ | $5.3 \%$ |
| $2021-22$ | $51.3 \%$ | $38.4 \%$ | $0.7 \%$ | $9.7 \%$ |
| $2020-21$ | $19.3 \%$ | $72.3 \%$ | $0.0 \%$ | $8.4 \%$ |
| $2019-20$ | Not | Not | Not | Not |
| $2018-19$ | Applicable | Applicable | Applicable | Applicable |$|$

## Scavenger Hunt Time!

## Monterey County <br> Research Practice Partnership

## A Focus on Chronic Absenteeism


ccee
California Collaborative
for Educational Excellence

## Monterey County and California Chronic Absenteeism Rates




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## Data Teams

## District Administrators

Social Workers


## ccee

California Collaborative
for Educational Excellence

## Partnership Timeline/Overview 2022-2023



## 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

## Monterey County - 2021-22



Source: https://www.cde.ca.gov/ds/ad/filesabd.asp

## 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

AUGUST
Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat


DECEMBER
Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat


SEPTEMBER
Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat


JANUARY
Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat


OCTOBER
Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat


FEBRUARY
Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat


NOVEMBER
Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat


MARCH
Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat


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


Empathy Study: April-June 2023






| Attendance Pyramid Worksheet |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | $\begin{gathered} \text { Family } \\ \text { Engagement } \end{gathered}$ | Positive Student Engagement | Behavioral and Mental Health | Physical Health | Academic Support | Extended Learning | Basic Needs |
| Tier 3: Intensive Intervention | $\begin{aligned} & 1: 1 \text { intakes "What } \\ & \text { is the main issue" } \end{aligned}$ |  | Behavioral technicians Social Worker Licensed Clinician |  |  |  |  |
| Tier 2: Early Intervention | Preventative Meetings Empathy Interviews Home Visits | Incentives | Behavioral technicians |  | $\begin{array}{\|l} \hline \text { Tutoring } \\ \text { IAs } \\ \text { Small groups } 1: 1 \end{array}$ | After-school tutoring <br> NEST <br> Clubs |  |
| Tier 1: Universal Prevention | Letter <br> Phone Call <br> Informational Meeting (how it works) | Incentives <br> Better <br> communication <br> School-wide acknowledgement system | Individual learning plans | Sports <br> Outdoor activities Electives Recess, P.E. |  | Incentives |  |
| $\begin{aligned} & \text { Foundational } \\ & \text { Supports } \end{aligned}$ | Cafecitos |  | Psychologists \& Counselors <br> School based mental health | Nurse | NEST Counselors |  | Free <br> Transportation <br> Housing <br> School Supplies <br> Food |
| https://www.attendanceworks.org/chronic-absence/addressing-chronic-absence/3-tiers-of-intervention/ |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |

## Drivers

## Sample Change Ideas

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

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


Parent meetings. Inform parents what is chronic absenteeism and why attendance
matters

One to one parent and student contacts/connections $2 \times 10$ (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






## Sample Participating District

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


## Thank you!



## Questions from the Audience



