



**Contact:**

Catherine Cooney, Attendance Works  
[catherine@attendanceworks.org](mailto:catherine@attendanceworks.org)

**PRESS RELEASE**

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**New Data Analysis: Chronic Absence Rates Remain Far Too High Among U.S. Schools**

While overall rates of chronic absence have improved since the onset of the Covid-19 pandemic, the most recent state data show that chronic absence rates remain far too high among U.S. schools, according to a [new analysis](#) from [Attendance Works](#) and the [Everyone Graduates Center](#) at Johns Hopkins University.

Today's analysis of [2024-25 school year data](#) available from 31 states focuses on chronic absence rates at the school level. The data show that most states still have more schools with either high or extreme levels of chronic absence than they did prior to the pandemic. This is problematic because when a school's chronic absence rates are at these levels, the whole student body, as well as its teachers, can be impacted.

Charts provide chronic absence rates [for the 31 states](#) as well as national chronic absence rates. The article features bright spot stories from states in different regions.

Knowing how many schools have chronic absence rates of at least 20% is not always obvious when looking at the overall chronic absence rate for a state. When schools are faced with large numbers of children who are missing 10% or more days of school, solutions are beyond the capacity of a single school social worker or counselor to address.

These high levels of chronic absence demonstrate the urgent need for educators to develop system-wide responses that build positive conditions for learning for all students and their families.

Bright spot stories from states in different regions show how educators are using creative, tailored strategies to move the needle on student attendance and engagement. Both stories illustrate that implementing a comprehensive, multi-strategy response is needed to motivate all students to attend and engage in learning.

“Moving the needle on student attendance in schools can’t be solved with a silver bullet approach,” said Hedy Chang, CEO and President, Attendance Works and co-author of today’s analysis. “As today’s bright spot stories show us, solutions require a comprehensive school-wide strategy using interventions tailored at the local level.”

“What we know about what works for reducing chronic absence indicates that all schools that face a chronic absence challenge can benefit from a core set of strategies that have been shown to improve attendance. Fortunately, numerous evidence-based interventions are available that can be tailored at the local level,” said Robert Balfanz, Director, Everyone Graduates Center, Johns Hopkins University and co-author of today’s analysis.

The analysis provides information about how many schools face high (20-29% of students) or extreme (30% or more) levels of chronic absence and shows the changes over time in the overall percent of students who are chronically absent. Chronic absence is defined as missing 10% or more of school days due to absence for any reason—excused, unexcused and suspensions.

Key findings of today’s data analysis include:

- Nearly all states saw noticeable reductions in the percent of schools with high or extreme chronic absence from the 2021-22 school year to 2024-25.
- But most states still have more schools with either high or extreme absence than they did in 2017-18.
- The percent of schools experiencing extreme levels of chronic absence (30% or more) has almost been cut in half from 41% in 2021-22 to 23% in 2024-25.
- Higher-poverty communities experience higher levels of chronic absence both before and during the pandemic. Children living in low-income communities have fewer resources to make up for lost learning opportunities in the classroom.
- Bright spot stories from different regions in the U.S. show how educators are using creative, tailored strategies to move the needle on student attendance and engagement.

**About Attendance Works**

Attendance Works ([www.attendanceworks.org](http://www.attendanceworks.org)), a nonprofit initiative, partners with schools, districts, states, communities and organizations to advance success in school and beyond for all students by reducing chronic absence.

**About Everyone Graduates Center**

The mission of the Everyone Graduates Center ([new.every1graduates.org](http://new.every1graduates.org)) is to develop and disseminate the know-how required to enable all students to graduate from high school prepared for college, career and civic life.