

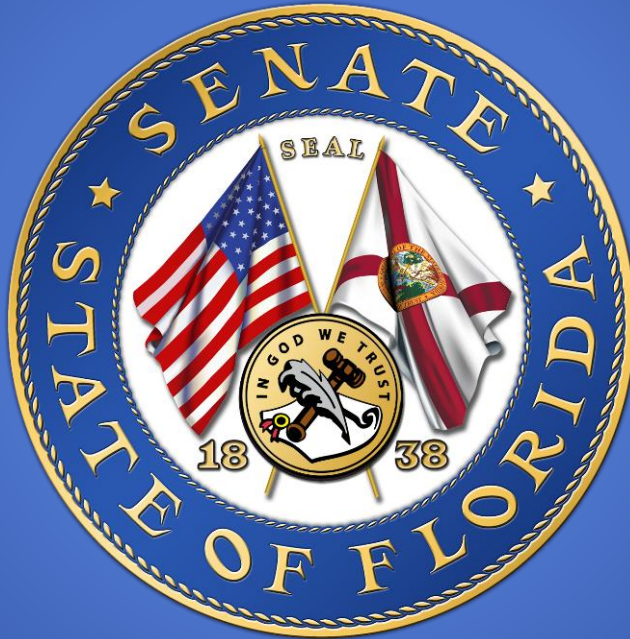
The Florida Senate
COMMITTEE MEETING EXPANDED AGENDA
EDUCATION PRE-K - 12
Senator Simon, Chair
Senator Calatayud, Vice Chair

MEETING DATE: Tuesday, November 18, 2025
TIME: 3:30—5:30 p.m.
PLACE: *Pat Thomas Committee Room*, 412 Knott Building

MEMBERS: Senator Simon, Chair; Senator Calatayud, Vice Chair; Senators Berman, Burgess, Davis, Gaetz, Osgood, and Yarborough

TAB		BILL NO. and INTRODUCER	BILL DESCRIPTION and SENATE COMMITTEE ACTIONS	COMMITTEE ACTION
		Presentation and school district panel discussion on student absences		
		Other Related Meeting Documents		

Student Attendance



Committee on Education Pre-K – 12
November 18, 2025

Compulsory Attendance in Florida

- All children who have attained the age of 6 years, or will attain the age of 6 years by February 1 of a school year, must attend school regularly.
- Attendance is compulsory until the child is 16.
- A child who is age 5 by September 1 is eligible to attend kindergarten, but kindergarten is not compulsory.

Section 1003.21, F.S.

- Each parent of a child within the compulsory attendance age is responsible for the child's attendance.
- Each district school board must establish an attendance policy that determines the required days of attendance and the criteria for an excused or unexcused absence.

Section 1003.24, F.S.

Enforcing School Attendance

- The school must contact the student's parent after each unexcused absence.
- The principal must refer the child to the school's child study team for a pattern of nonattendance (after 5 unexcused absences in a calendar month, or 10 unexcused absences within 90 days).
- The child study team must meet with the student's parent to identify potential remedies. If the initial meeting does not resolve the issue, the child study team must maintain frequent communication with the parent, and also:
 - Attempt to determine reasons for nonattendance and provide remedies, referrals to services, or referrals to scholarship options if the learning environment is a concern.
 - Evaluate the student for an alternative education program.
 - Implement an attendance contract.
- The child study team may refer the case to the Department of Juvenile Justice or other agencies for family services or recommend filing a truancy petition when all reasonable efforts to resolve nonattendance are exhausted.

Section 1003.26, F.S.

Addressing Truancy

- If the student continues nonattendance, the superintendent may file a truancy petition with a circuit court. The superintendent must refer a habitually truant child (15 unexcused absences in 90 days) to DJJ for services (s. 1003.26, F.S.).
- The truancy court must order the student to attend school and the parent to ensure attendance, and then may order alternative classes, parenting classes, counseling and mental or substance abuse services, state or community services, and job training (s. 984.151, F.S.).
- The district superintendent must report a minor student who is habitually truant to the DHSMV. The DHSMV may not issue a driver license or permit, or must suspend an existing license or permit, for such student (s. 1003.27, F.S.).
- Criminal prosecution against a student's parent may not begin until the school district has first made reasonable efforts and followed the statutory attendance intervention steps (s. 1003.24, F.S.), and the parent has refused to comply. The penalty is a second-misdemeanor (s. 1003.27, F.S.).

Chronic Absenteeism

F. Chris Curran
Professor and Director
UF Education Policy Research Center

 COLLEGE OF EDUCATION



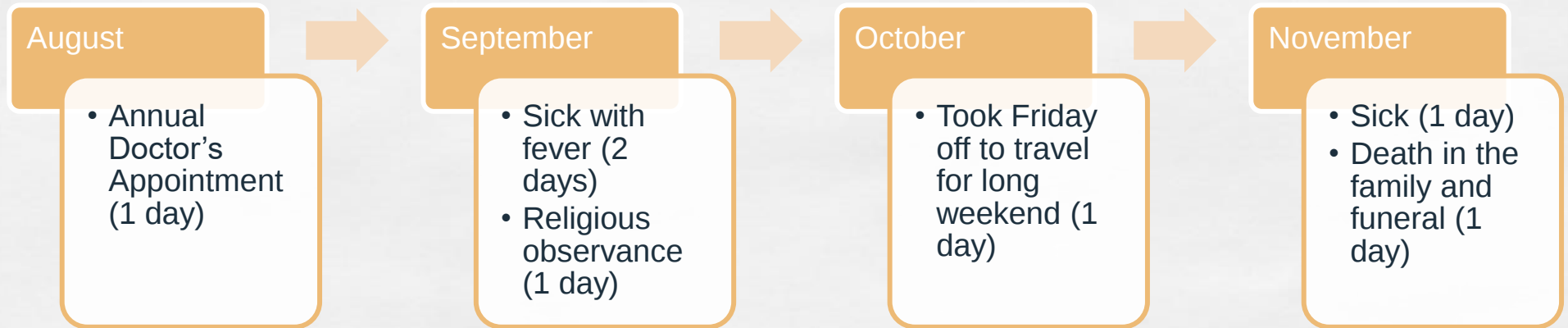
UF | Education Policy
Research Center

Meet Missy

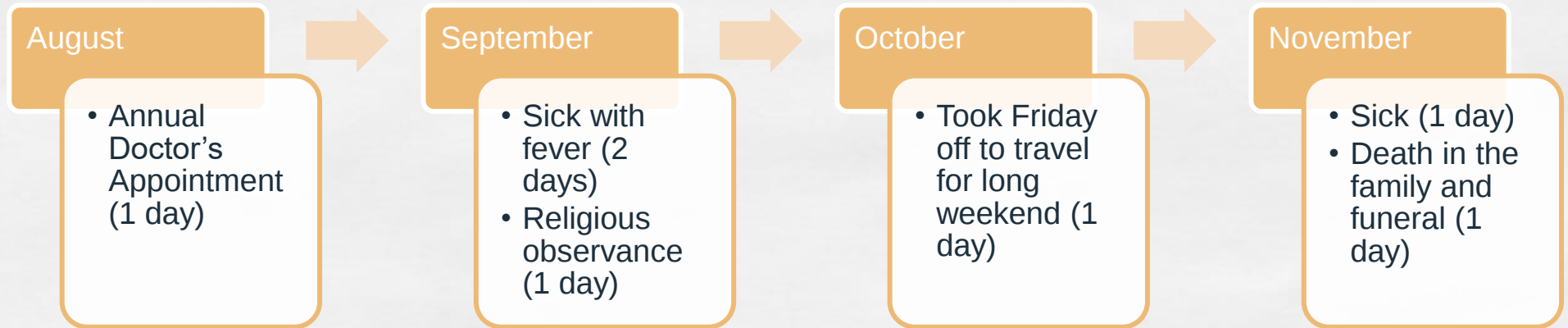


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Meet Missy



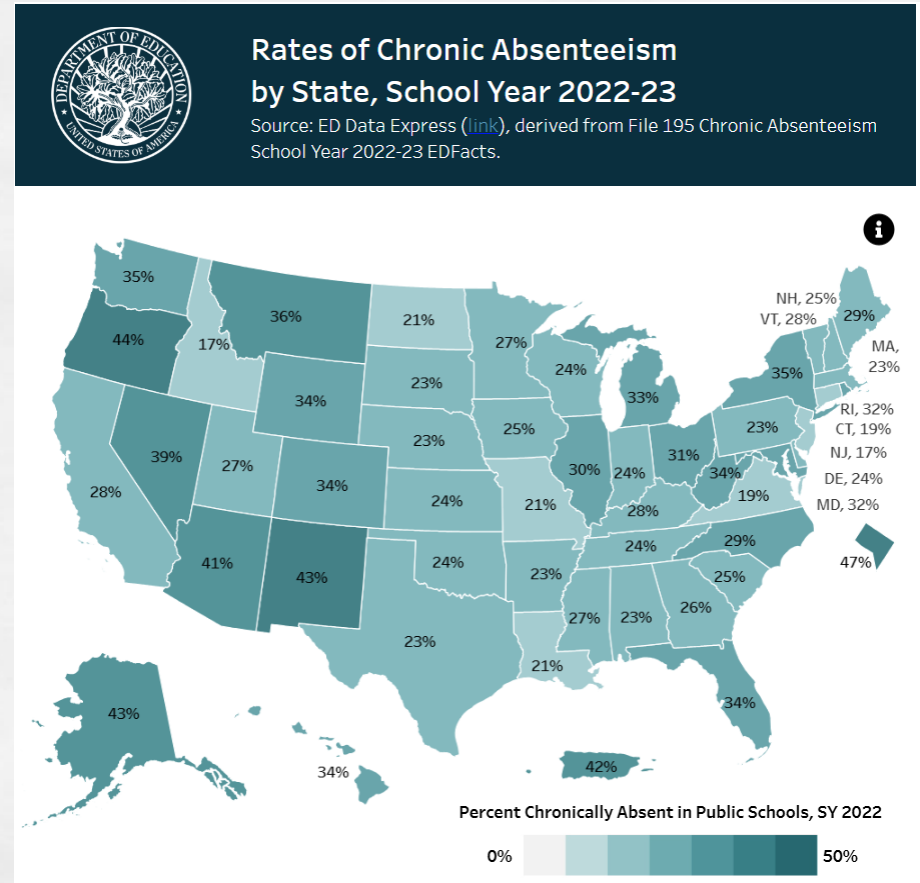
Meet Missy



Missy is on track to be chronically absent

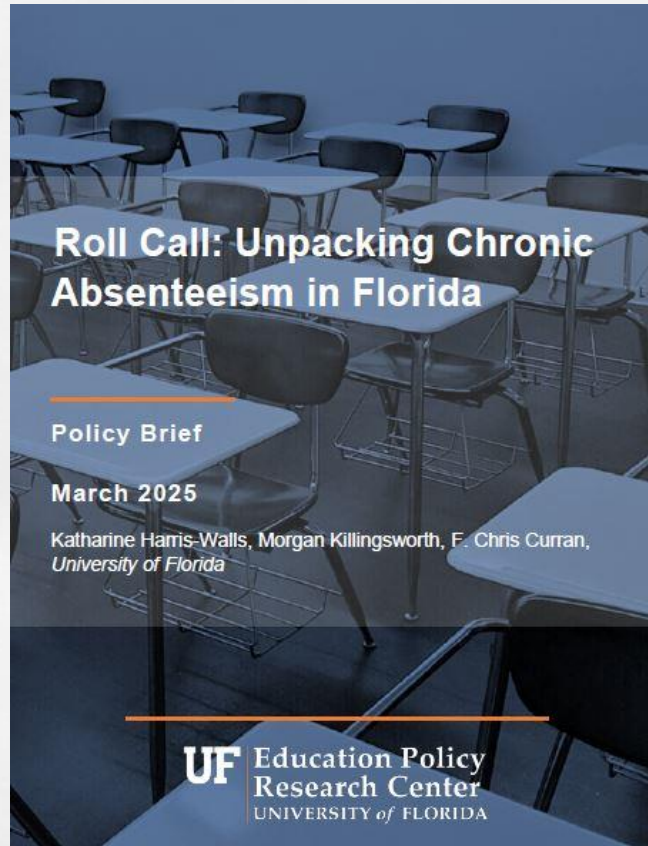
Absenteeism Nationally

- Chronic absenteeism is generally defined as missing 10% or more days of school (roughly 18 days out of a 180-day year)
- Absenteeism spiked during the pandemic
- Rates of absenteeism vary, but remain high
- FL's rates of chronic absenteeism have been among the upper half of the country



Source: <https://www.ed.gov/teaching-and-administration/supporting-students/chronic-absenteeism>

Roll Call: Unpacking Chronic Absenteeism in FL



Absenteeism in FL

- How absences are measured varies across school districts in FL

Miami-Dade

- “A student is in school attendance for a full school day if the student is actually present **for at least two (2) hours of the school day...**”

Polk County

- “The student must also be present for **more than 50% of the academic day** to be counted present.”

Hillsborough County

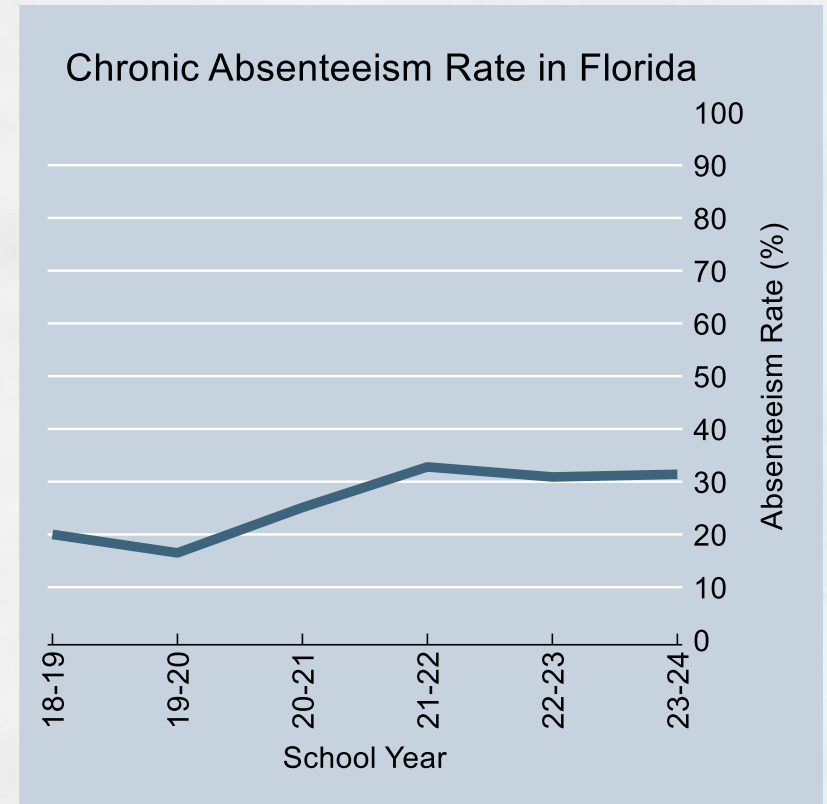
- “Elementary students in attendance for **“meaningful instruction”** during **any part of the school day** are counted present for the day.”

Trends in Absenteeism in FL

31.4%

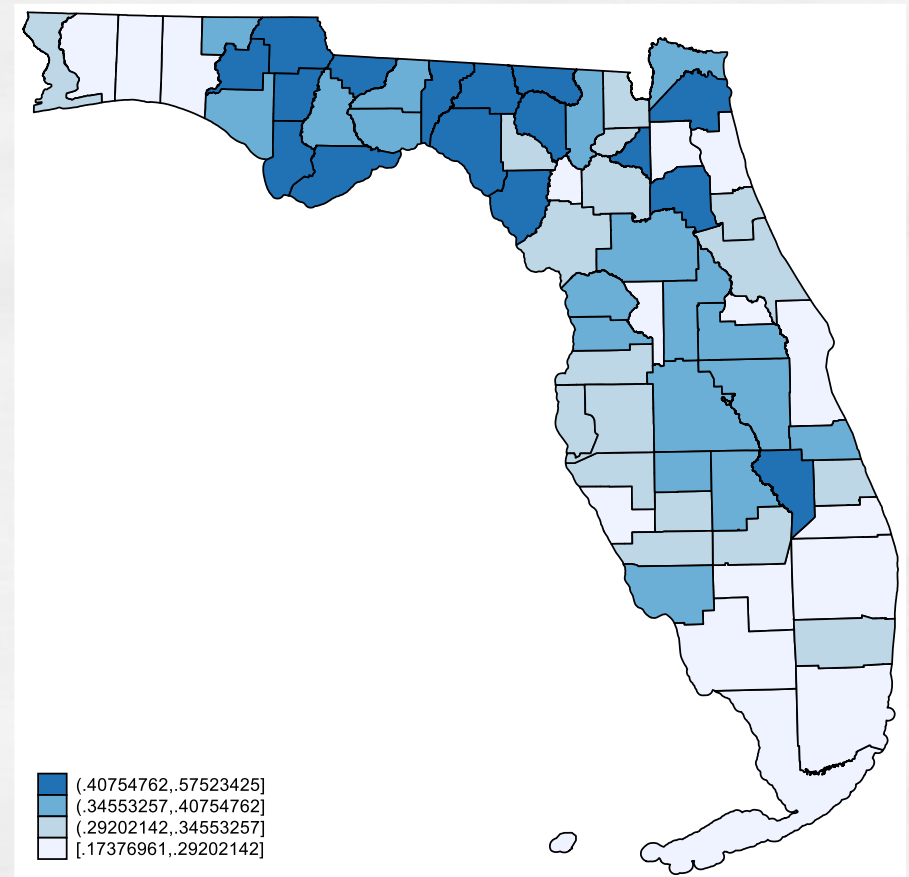
Chronically Absent
(10% or more) in '23-24

- Absenteeism rates in Florida, like the nation, have increased substantially since the pandemic.
- More than 50% higher than pre-pandemic levels.

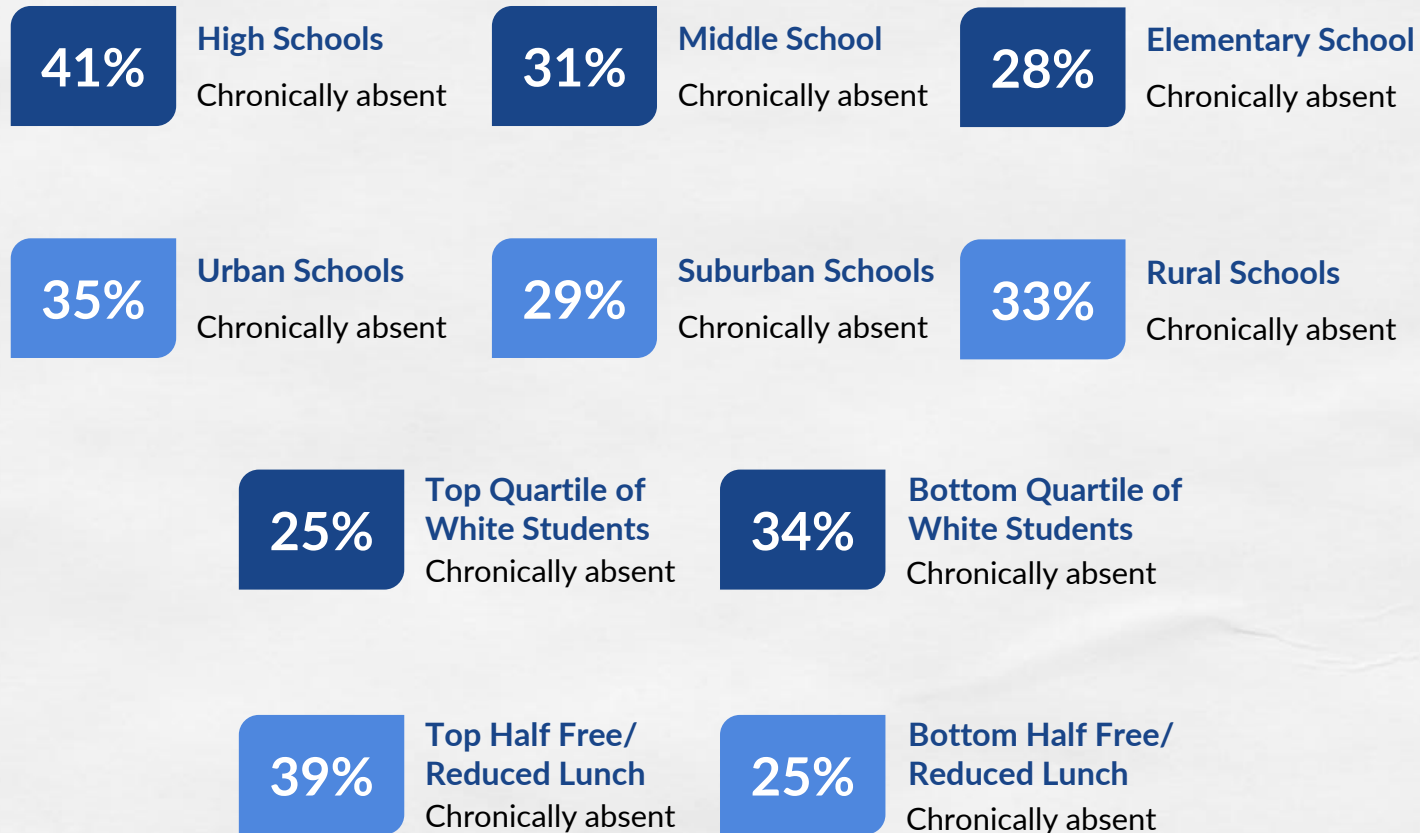


Variation Across the State

- The lowest five districts were Collier (17.4%), Santa Rosa (20.0%), Hendry (20.1%), St. Johns (20.1%), and Sarasota (20.1%)
- In contrast, the five highest districts were Putnam (57.5%), Gadsden (56%), Taylor (54.7%), Okeechobee (50.2%), and Franklin (50.2%)



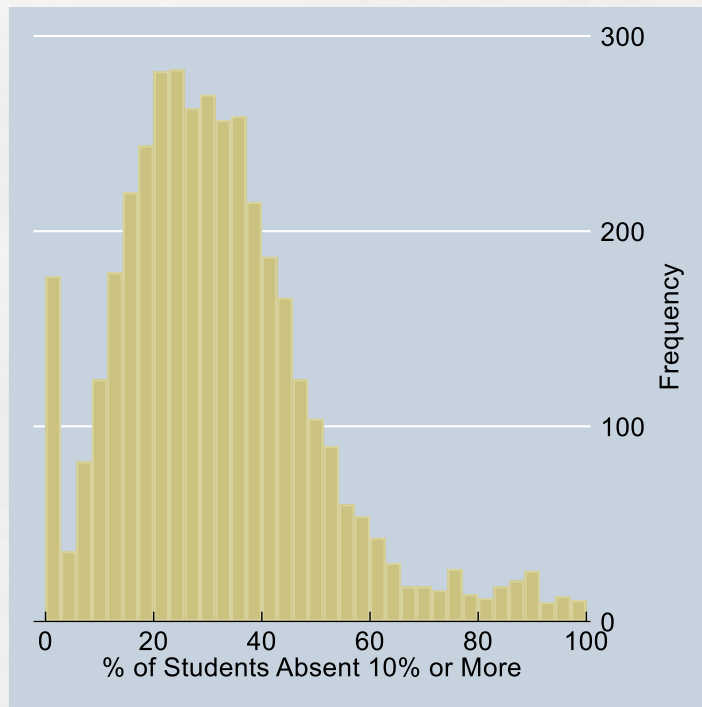
Variation Across the State



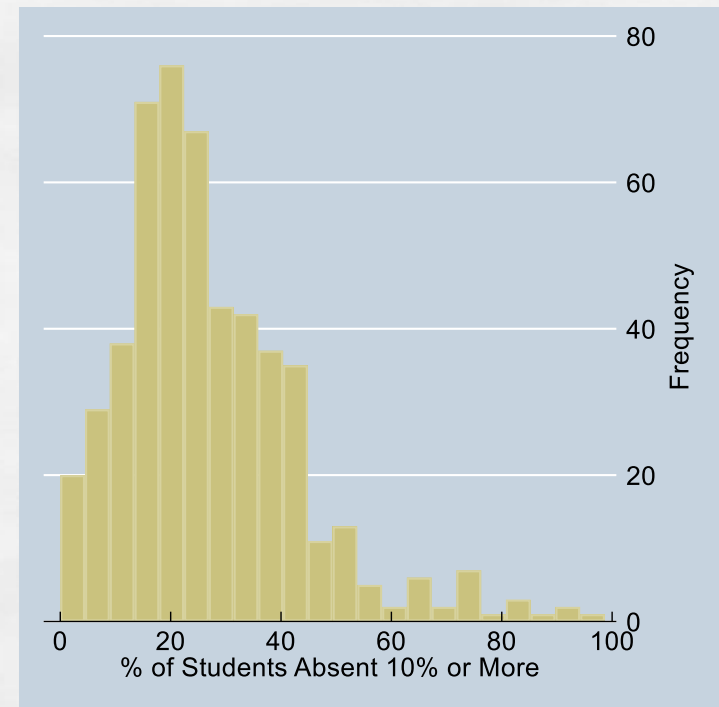
Variation Within Districts

- School chronic absenteeism varies significantly within school districts

Florida



Miami-Dade



Root Causes of Absenteeism

- Lingering COVID effects
 - Shifts in how we respond to sickness
 - Changes in how we view the necessity of regular school attendance
- Transportation challenges
- Mental health concerns
- Disengagement
- Differences between elementary and upper grades

Promising Approaches to Reduce Absenteeism

- Data-driven approaches
 - Early warning systems
- Multi-tiered response systems
 - From class and school-wide messaging and rewards to targeted interventions
- Relationships and connections
 - Check and Connect program
- Behavioral nudges
 - Text messaging and post-card interventions
- A focus on absenteeism as a symptom of other factors (health, transportation, mental well-being)

Reflection

ELEMENTARY TO HIGH SCHOOL

Students can't learn if they don't show up at school

Districts are paying more attention to “chronic absenteeism” in their efforts to improve student learning

by TARA GARCÍA MATHEWSON

February 15, 2018



Reflection

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February 15, 2018



A Question

How do we
reduce chronic
absenteeism?

How do we ensure
students are in a
safe environment
and learning?

Thanks!

chriscurran@coe.ufl.edu



COLLIER COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Systems that Stick: Driving Attendance and Academic Achievement in Collier County

Dr. Leslie Ricciardelli
Superintendent

Percentage of Students Absent 21 or More Days

2023-24 Absenteeism Data with 2023-24 District Grade

District	2023-24 School Grade	Total Enrollment	# of Students Absent 21 or More Days	% of Students Absent 21 or More Days
COLLIER	A	52,358	4837	9.2%
ST. JOHNS	A	53,686	6205	11.6%
SARASOTA	A	48,376	5613	11.6%
WALTON	A	12,522	1751	14.0%
SUMTER	A	10,359	1595	15.4%
SEMINOLE	A	69,560	10934	15.7%
MIAMI-DADE	A	367,362	63407	17.3%
LAFAYETTE	A	1,206	211	17.5%
NASSAU	A	13,496	3142	23.3%
INDIAN RIVER	A	17,916	4282	23.9%



Correlating Attendance and Academic Achievement

SY 23-24 Survey 5 Data

- Lowest percentage of students absent 21 or more days in FL school districts
- Lowest percentage of students absent 10% or more

 Students Absent 21 or More Days and Absent 10% or More Comparison by District 2023-24, Final Survey 5 Please see NOTES for Comparison Methodology.							
District #	District Name	Total Enrollment	# of Students Absent 21 or More Days	% of Students Absent 21 or More Days	# of Students Enrolled 10 or More Days	# of Students Absent 10% or More	% of Students Absent 10% or More
00	FLORIDA	3,153,549	626,564	19.9%	3,110,902	976,305	31.4%
01	ALACHUA	31,516	6,200	19.7%	31,025	9,791	31.6%
02	BAKER	4,911	1,021	20.8%	4,892	1,523	31.1%
03	BAY	30,652	6,677	21.8%	30,244	10,665	35.3%
04	BRADFORD	3,169	911	28.7%	3,120	1,375	44.1%
05	BREVARD	79,064	9,075	11.5%	78,425	16,535	21.1%
06	BROWARD	271,881	61,317	22.6%	266,817	89,683	33.6%
07	CALHOUN	2,158	687	31.8%	2,152	978	45.4%
08	CHARLOTTE	18,331	3,510	19.1%	18,177	5,668	31.2%
09	CITRUS	17,275	4,018	23.3%	17,015	6,412	37.7%
10	CLAY	46,507	7,967	17.1%	46,301	12,370	26.7%
11	COLLIER	52,358	4,837	9.2%	51,833	9,007	17.4%
12	COLUMBIA	10,303	2,610	25.3%	10,219	3,865	37.8%

2021-2025 District Grades and Attendance Comparison					
Grading Component	SY21	SY22	SY23	SY24	SY25
Grade 3 ELA Achievement	--	--	--	65	66
ELA Achievement	57	58	56	61	66
ELA Learning Gains	52	55	--	61	64
ELA Learning Gains Lowest 25%	39	41	--	55	59
Math Achievement	60	65	68	71	73
Math Learning Gains	53	63	--	67	67
Math Learning Gains Lowest	46	58	--	63	63
Science Achievement	59	60	63	66	68
Social Studies Achievement	68	70	69	72	78
Middle School Acceleration	83	84	79	81	83
High School Graduation Rate	92	93	92	91	91
High School Acceleration	73	70	68	67	70
Total Points	681	717	495	820	848
Total Components	11	11	7	12	12
Percent	62%	65%	71%	68%	71%
Grade	A	A	A	A	A
% of Students Absent 21 or More Days	10.0%	14.4%	10.1%	9.2%	--
% of Students Absent 10% or More	17.5%	24.3%	18.4%	17.4%	--



Florida Statute 1003.26 Overview

- Monitor daily attendance and identify patterns of non-attendance
- Initiate contact with parents after each unexcused absence or pattern of absences
- Schedule meetings with parents to determine the reason for absences and develop a plan for regular attendance (Multi-Tiered System of Supports)
- Implement school-based interventions (e.g., problem-solving teams, counseling, attendance contracts, referrals to support services)
- Document all interventions, contacts, and attempted remedies prior to escalating the case



Florida Statute 1003.26 Overview

- Develop an intervention plan through the team, including monitoring and support
- If non-attendance persists, schools must refer the case to the Superintendent for:
 - Truancy petition in Circuit Court
- Provide all required documentation to support the truancy petition (attendance records, parent contacts, interventions attempted)
- Continue collaborating with agencies/court until compliance improves



Florida Statute 1003.26

- CONTACT, REFER, AND ENFORCE.—

- (a) Upon each unexcused absence, or absence for which the reason is unknown, **the school principal or his or her designee must contact the student's parent to determine the reason for the absence.**
- (b) If a student has had at least five unexcused absences...within a calendar month or 10 unexcused absences...within a 90-calendar-day period...**the principal must refer the case to the school's child study team** to determine if early patterns of truancy are developing.
- (c) If the parent or child fails to attend the child study team meeting, the meeting shall be held in his or her absence, and **the child study team shall make written recommendations to remediate the truancy** based upon the information available to the school.



Florida Statute 1003.26

- CONTACT, REFER, AND ENFORCE.—

(c) The recommendations shall be provided to the parent within 7 days after the child study team meeting. **If the initial meeting does not resolve the problem, the child study team shall implement the following:**

1. Frequent attempts at communication between the teacher and the family.
2. Attempt to determine the reasons the child is truant from school and provide remedies...if the learning environment is an issue of concern.
3. Evaluation for alternative education programs.
4. Attendance contracts.

(d) The child study team must be diligent in facilitating intervention services and shall **report the case to the district school superintendent only when all reasonable efforts to resolve the nonattendance behavior are exhausted.**



Consistent District-Wide Messaging

“On Time, All Day, Every Day” Attendance Campaign

- Strategic and timely messaging regarding attendance
- Ongoing communication to students and parents regarding expectations
- Posters displayed provide reminders to students
- Flyers, brochures, phone dialers, attendance letters, and social media posts include attendance campaign messages
- Vacation planning dates provided to parents in advance
- Visuals and messages in multiple languages
- Social media posts with attendance graphics



Consistent District-Wide Messaging

Secondary (6 – 12) Attendance Brochures

- Provided to students and parents during MTSS attendance meetings
- FL attendance laws, tips for parents, statistics, local resources

When is sick too sick for school?



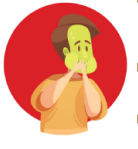
OK for school if...

- ▶ Clear runny nose or a little cough
- ▶ 24 hours since vomiting or diarrhea
- ▶ No fever or fever reducing medicine for 24 hours



Keep home if...

- ▶ Temperature is higher than 100°
- ▶ Vomiting or diarrhea
- ▶ Undiagnosed cough
- ▶ Pink/crusty eyes



Call the doctor if...

- ▶ Temperature higher than 100°, vomiting, or diarrhea for more than two days
- ▶ Sniffles for more than a week, and they are not getting better
- ▶ Still have asthma symptoms after using asthma medicine
- ▶ New cough that does not get better after two (2) days

LOCAL RESOURCES...

Collier County Sheriff's Office (JAR)
3301 East Tamiami Trail, Building J
Naples, FL 34112
Phone: (239) 252-0900

David Lawrence Center
Mental Health Counseling and Substance Abuse Treatment for Children and Adults

Naples Location
6075 Batthey Lane
Naples, FL 34116
Phone: (239) 455-8500

Immokalee Location
425 N 1st St
Immokalee, FL 34142
Phone: (239) 657-4434

Lutheran Services Florida
Counseling Programs for Youth and Families
3634 Central Avenue
Ft. Myers, FL 33901
Phone: (239) 823-3928—Naples
Phone: (239) 278-5400—Immokalee

CCPS
Collier County Public Schools

Collier County Public Schools
5775 Osceola Trail - Naples, FL 34109
www.collierschools.com

Dr. Leslie C. Ricciardelli
Superintendent of Schools

DEPARTMENT OF STUDENT RELATIONS
Eric Mayo, Assistant Director
Lisa Roa, Manager

Naples / Immokalee - Student Relations Specialists
Susie Garcia - (239) 377-0527
Angela Valmaña - (239) 377-0524
Arely Garcia - (239) 377-6147 (Immokalee)

TRUANCY PREVENTION

SECONDARY LEVELS

ATTEND TODAY

ACHIEVE TOMORROW

DON'T LET ABSENCES ADD UP

A Parent's Guide to Keeping Your Child in School

Collier County Public Schools
www.collierschools.com

FLORIDA'S ATTENDANCE LAW...

State of Florida Compulsory School Attendance Laws require all children who have attained the age of six (6) years by February 1 of any school year, or who are older than six (6) years of age but who have not attained the age of sixteen (16) years, to attend school regularly during the entire school term.

Parents failing to properly enroll or require their children to attend school regularly shall be guilty of a misdemeanor of the second degree punishable as provided in the law.

TIPS FOR PARENTS...

Did you know?

- ▶ Students should miss no more than 9 days of school each year to stay engaged, successful and on track for graduation
- ▶ By 6th grade, absenteeism is one of three signs that a student may drop out of high school
- ▶ By 9th grade, regular and high attendance is a better predictor of graduation rates than 8th grade test scores
- ▶ Students can be chronically absent even if they only miss a day or two every few weeks
- ▶ Attendance is an important life skill that will help your child graduate from college and keep a job

What You Can Do

Make school attendance a priority

- ▶ Talk about the importance of showing up to school every day, make that the exception
- ▶ Help your child maintain daily routines, such as finishing homework and getting a good night's sleep
- ▶ Try not to schedule dental and medical appointments during the school day
- ▶ Don't let your child stay home unless truly sick. Complaints of stomach aches or headaches may be signs of anxiety

Help your teen stay engaged

- ▶ Find out if your child feels engaged by his/her classes and feels safe from bullies and other threats.
- ▶ Make sure he/she is not missing class because of behavioral issues and school discipline policies. If any of these are problems, work with your school administration
- ▶ Stay on top of academic progress and seek help from teachers or tutors, if necessary. Make sure teachers know how to contact you
- ▶ Stay on top of your child's social contacts. Peer pressure can lead to skipping school, while students without many friends can feel isolated
- ▶ Encourage meaningful afterschool activities, including sports and clubs

REASONS TO STAY IN SCHOOL

Finding Work Is Easier

- ▶ You are almost twice as likely to be unemployed if you do not finish high school

You'll Earn More

- ▶ Studies show high school graduates make 60% more than dropouts

What This Means

High school graduates are:

- ▶ Less likely to live at home
- ▶ More likely to be able to buy a car and rent an apartment
- ▶ Less likely to need welfare or public assistance

Less Likely To Be A Prison Inmate

- ▶ 75% of all prisoners are high school dropouts

Bottom Line— It's Your Future

- ▶ Your choices now will determine how well you live for the rest of your life

NOTE: These numbers assume a 180-day school year.



Consistent District-Wide Messaging

Elementary (PreK – 5) Attendance Brochures

- Provided to students and parents during MTSS attendance meetings
- FL attendance laws, tips for parents, statistics, local resources

TIPS FOR PARENTS... PRE-K

Did you know?
Missing 10 percent of preschool (one or two days every few weeks) can:

- ▶ Make it harder to develop early reading skills
- ▶ Make it harder to get ready for kindergarten and first grade
- ▶ Develop a poor attendance pattern that's hard to break

What You Can Do
Talk about it – sing about it – make it an adventure!

- ▶ Set a regular bed time and morning routine
- ▶ Lay out clothes and pack backpacks the night before
- ▶ Share ideas with other parents for getting out the door on time

Before the school year starts:

- ▶ Find out what day school starts and make sure your child has the required shots

ELEMENTARY

Did you know?

- ▶ Starting in kindergarten, too many absences can cause children to fall behind in school
- ▶ Missing 10 percent (or about 18 days) can make it harder to learn to read
- ▶ Students can still fall behind if they miss just a day or two days every few weeks
- ▶ Being late to school may lead to poor attendance
- ▶ Absences can affect the whole classroom if the teacher has to slow down learning to help children catch up

What You Can Do

- ▶ Set a regular bed time and morning routine
- ▶ Lay out clothes and pack backpacks the night before
- ▶ Find out what day school starts and make sure your child has the required shots
- ▶ Don't let your child stay home unless truly sick. Keep in mind complaints of a stomach ache or headache can be a sign of anxiety and not a reason to stay home
- ▶ Avoid medical appointments and extended trips when school is in session

LOCAL RESOURCES...

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PRE-K AND ELEMENTARY

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Parents failing to properly enroll or require their children to attend school regularly shall be guilty of a misdemeanor of the second degree punishable as provided in the law.

When is sick *too sick* for school?

OK for school if...

- ▶ Clear runny nose but no other symptoms
- ▶ 24 hours since vomiting or diarrhea
- ▶ No fever or fever reducing medicine for 24 hours

Keep home if...

- ▶ Temperature is higher than 100°
- ▶ Vomiting or diarrhea
- ▶ Undiagnosed cough
- ▶ Pink/crusty eyes

Call the doctor if...

- ▶ Temperature higher than 100°, vomiting, or diarrhea for more than two days
- ▶ Sniffles for more than a week, and they are not getting better
- ▶ Still have asthma symptoms after using asthma medicine
- ▶ New cough that does not get better after two (2) days

Call 911 if...

- ▶ If there is trouble breathing
- ▶ A severe allergic reaction—no emergency medication available

NOTE: These numbers assume a 180-day school year.



Consistent District-Wide Messaging

school posters

attendance**MATTERS**

be in school . . .

ON TIME
all day
EVERY DAY

Missing **2 days a month** means a child misses **10%** of the school year.

EVERY MINUTE COUNTS
Getting to school late, checking out early, or missing school can affect a child's academic future.



 **CCPS** | Collier County Public Schools

parent flyer – planning dates

 **CCPS** | Collier County Public Schools

VACATION PLANNING
STUDENT HOLIDAY DATES
2025-2026

THANKSGIVING BREAK
Monday 11/24/25 - Friday 11/28/25
Students Return on Monday 12/1/25

WINTER BREAK
Monday 12/22/25 - Monday 1/5/26*
Students Return on Tuesday 1/6/26
*1/5/26 is a Teacher Planning Day

SPRING BREAK
Friday 3/6/26* - Friday 3/13/26
Students Return on Monday 3/16/26
*3/6/26 is a Teacher Planning Day

EARLY RELEASE DAYS
Friday 10/31/25
Wednesday 2/11/26
Wednesday 3/25/26
Friday 5/22/26
Friday 5/29/26
Students will be released 3 hours earlier than their normal dismissal time.

3 DAY WEEKENDS
Labor Day
Saturday 8/30/25 - Monday 9/1/25
Students Return on Tuesday 9/2/25
Teacher Planning Day
Saturday 10/11/25 - Monday 10/13/25
Students Return on Tuesday 10/14/25
Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
Saturday 1/17/26 - Monday 1/19/26
Students Return on Tuesday 1/20/26
Presidents Day
Saturday 2/14/26 - Monday 2/16/26
Students Return on Tuesday 2/17/26
Good Friday
Friday 4/3/26 - Sunday 4/5/26
Students Return on Monday 4/6/26
Memorial Day
Saturday 5/23/26 - Monday 5/25/26
Students Return on Tuesday 5/26/26

LAST DAY OF SCHOOL
Friday 5/29/26
Students will be released 3 hours earlier than their normal dismissal time.

BASED ON THE BOARD APPROVED CALENDAR 11/12/24

door tags used during home visits

We miss you! Hope you're well!

We miss seeing you!

Student _____

School _____

Please call our office:

239-377- _____

Phone _____

Ask for _____

 **Student Relations Department**
p: (239) 377-0541
e: studentrelations@collierschools.com
← Scan here to email us.

 **CCPS** | Collier County Public Schools

be in school . . .

ON TIME
all day
EVERY DAY

We miss seeing your child's smile in school!

Student: _____
School: _____
Please call our office:
Phone: (239) 377- _____
Ask for: _____



attendanceMATTERS

 **CCPS** | Collier County Public Schools

estar en clase . . .

A TIEMPO
cada día
POR TODO EL DÍA

¡Extrañamos la sonrisa de su hijo/a en la escuela!

Estudiante: _____
Escuela: _____
Favor llamar a nuestra oficina:
Teléfono: (239) 377- _____
Pida por: _____

vini lekòl . . . **A LÈ**
tout jouen **CHAK JOU**

Souri pitit ou a manke nou nan lekòl la!

Elèv: _____
Lekòl: _____
Tanpri rele biwo nou an:
Telefòn: (239) 377- _____
Mande pou: _____

 **CCPS** | Collier County Public Schools

Consistent District-Wide Messaging

Social Media Posts for Parents

- Before school year begins
- Attendance awareness month (Sept.)
- Peak times (before/after breaks)



September sets the tone

Students who miss 2-4 days in September are 5x more likely to be chronically absent for the year compared to those who miss fewer than 2 days.



Early grades matter most

Only 17% of students who were chronically absent in kindergarten and 1st grade (18+ days each year) read on grade level by the end of 3rd grade.



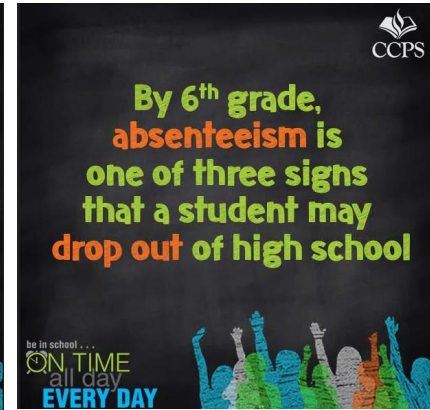
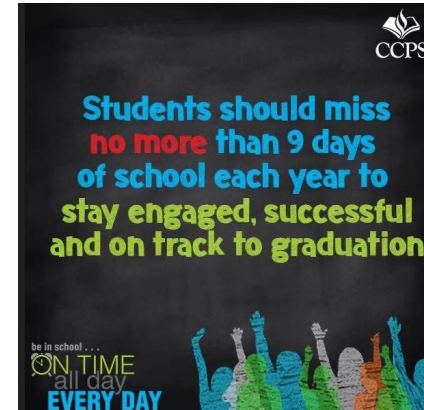
Middle school warning signs

By 6th grade, chronic absences are a leading indicator of dropping out of high school.



High school risks

By 9th grade, attendance is often a better predictor of dropout than 8th grade test scores.



Consistent District-Wide Procedures

- Information for parent notices
- Automated calls for each daily absence
- Phone calls at 5 accumulated absences
- Letters mailed at 7 and 10 days of absence
 - Attendance flyer and statistics
 - Printed list of absences

be in school . . .
ON TIME
all day
EVERY DAY

GENERAL

- Over 14.7 million (1 in 3) U.S. students miss nearly a month of school each year.
- The effects of poor attendance are particularly pronounced among low-income children. Unfortunately, 2 in 10 low-income children, 2.5 in 10 homeless children, and 4 in 10 transient children are likely to be chronically absent.
- Chronic absenteeism is about 15% less likely among English learners than non-English learners.
- Students with disabilities are almost 3 times more likely to be chronically absent than students without disabilities.
- The month of September matters. Students who missed 2 to 4 days in September were 5 times more likely to be chronically absent for the year than those who missed fewer than 2 days in September.

ELEMENTARY

- Only 17% of students who were chronically absent in kindergarten and 1st grade (18 or more days both years) can read on grade level after 3rd grade.
- Chronic absenteeism in kindergarten, and even PreK, can predict lower test scores, poor attendance, and retention in later grades.
- Chronically absent students in kindergarten and first grade are 4 times more likely to drop out in the future.
- Attending preschool matters. Students who do not attend preschool are more likely to be chronically absent in kindergarten.

SECONDARY

- By 6th grade, chronic absences becomes a leading indicator that a student will drop out of high school.
- By 9th grade, attendance can be a better indicator of dropout than 8th grade test scores.
- One year of chronic absenteeism between 8th and 12th grade can result in a seven-fold increase in the likelihood of dropping out.
- Each week of absence per semester in 9th grade is associated with a more than 20 percentage point decline in the probability of graduating from high school.
- Chronic absenteeism rates are highest in high school. Overall, almost 20 percent of students in high school are chronically absent compared to more than 14 percent of students in middle school and 14 percent in elementary school.

CCPS Collier County Public Schools
* Information provided by Attendance Works
<http://www.attendanceworks.org>

ATTENDANCE AND DISCIPLINE
Pelican Marsh Elementary (0431)
9480 AIRPORT ROAD NORTH
NAPLES, FL 34109
2393777900

09/17/2025
Parent/Guardian of [REDACTED]
Naples, FL 34109

School: Pelican Marsh Elementary (0431) Grade: [REDACTED] Student ID: [REDACTED]

Per Collier County Public School Administrative Procedure 5200, when a student accumulates seven (7) days of absences, other than Out-of-School Suspensions, whether excused or unexcused, a record of absences will promptly be mailed to the parent/guardian of the student.

You are being notified that [REDACTED] has seven (7) or more absences during the present semester. Although excessive unexcused and/or excused absences may cause your child to be designated habitually truant and may result in a referral of the student to Truancy Court.

Please review the enclosed copy of your child's attendance record. We encourage you to contact us to discuss and/or resolve any attendance questions, especially if your child's absences have not been documented with a written note or phone call. You may contact the Attendance Office at Pelican Marsh Elementary (0431) at 2393777900.

Codes for interpreting the absences are as follows:

A = Absent/Validated *	E = Excused *	L = Tardy (Excused)
* Brief illness, appointment, and family business documented by written notes from parents	* An illness of the student documented by a doctor's statement or a documented medical appointment	M = Tardy 10 - Minutes (Absent) *
B = Observance of Religious Belief (Excused) *	* An observance of an established religious holiday or for pre-arranged religious instruction as defined in F.S. 1003.21.	O = OSS
C = Clinic (Present)	* A court subpoena, a required court appearance (student)	P = Left School Before End of Day (Tardy)
D = Detention Center (Present)		S = Skipping/Cut (Unexcused) *
F = Field Trip/School Related Absence (Present)		T = Tardy (Unexcused)
G = Truancy (Unexcused) *		U = Unexcused *
H = Hospital/Homebound (Present)		I = Truancy
J = In-School Suspension (Present)		* Class cuts
		* Tardies to class of ten (10) minutes or more
		V = Left School Before End of Day (Tardy, Excused)
		W = Office (Present)

*May count toward the loss of credit at the high school level and for high school courses taken at the middle school.

ATTENDANCE AND DISCIPLINE
Palmetto Ridge High School (0493)
1655 VICTORY LANE
NAPLES, FL 34120
2393772400

09/17/2025
Parent/Guardian of [REDACTED]
Naples, FL 34130

School: Palmetto Ridge High School (0493) Grade: [REDACTED] Student ID: [REDACTED]

Per Collier County Public School Administrative Procedure 5200, when a student is absent ten (10) or more days, other than Out-of-School Suspensions, whether excused or unexcused, a record of absences will promptly be mailed to the parent/guardian of the student.

You are being notified that [REDACTED] has ten (10) or more absences in one or more periods during the present semester and is approaching the excessive absence limit for this semester.

Should [REDACTED] exceed the limit of more than nine (9) absences for this semester, [REDACTED] will be referred to an Academic Review Committee to be considered for loss of credit, in which [REDACTED] absences, academic history, and extenuating circumstances will be reviewed. [REDACTED] exceeds the limit, you will be notified in writing of the committee's final decision at the end of the semester. If a decision is made to withhold credit then an explanation of the appeal process will be provided.

Accruing excessive unexcused and/or validated absences may also cause your child to be designated habitually truant and will result in a referral of the student to Truancy Court and/or a recommendation for revocation of the student's driver's license from the Florida Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles.

Please review the enclosed copy of your student's attendance record and discuss it with your child. We encourage you to contact us to discuss and/or resolve attendance questions, especially if your child's absences have not been documented with a written note or phone call. You may contact the Attendance Office at Palmetto Ridge High School (0493) at 2393772400.

Codes for interpreting the absences are as follows:

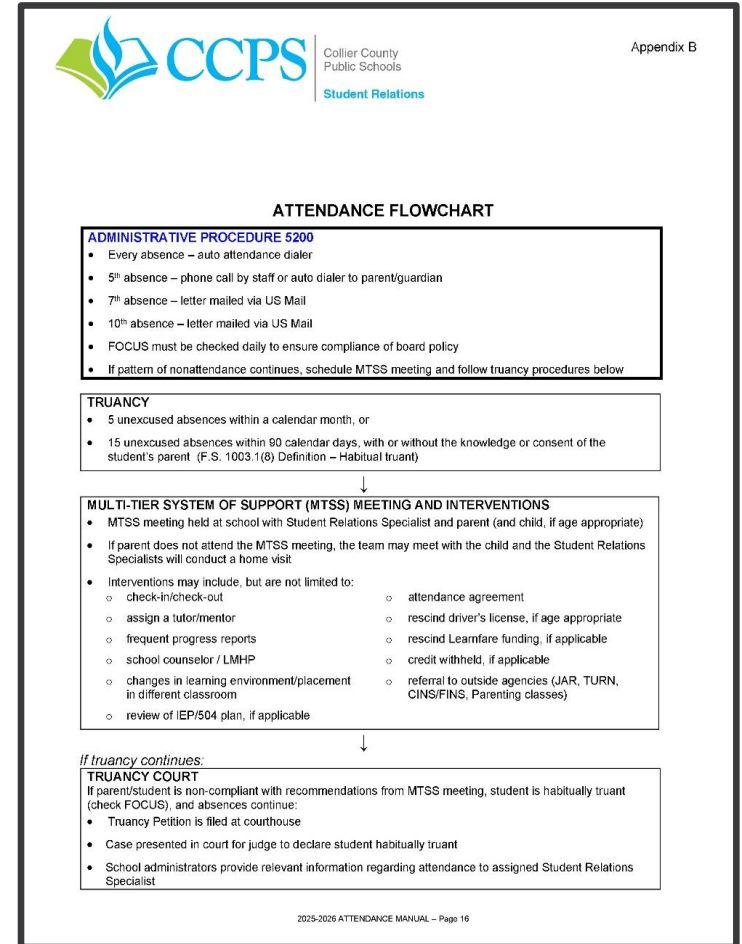
A = Absent/Validated *	E = Excused *	L = Tardy (Excused)
* Brief illness, appointment, and family business documented by written notes from parents	* An illness of the student documented by a doctor's statement or a documented medical appointment	M = Tardy 10 - Minutes (Absent) *
B = Observance of Religious Belief (Excused) *	* An observance of an established religious holiday or for pre-arranged religious instruction as defined in F.S. 1003.21.	O = OSS
C = Clinic (Present)	* A court subpoena, a required court appearance (student)	P = Left School Before End of Day (Tardy)
D = Detention Center (Present)		S = Skipping/Cut (Unexcused) *
F = Field Trip/School Related Absence (Present)		T = Tardy (Unexcused)
G = Truancy (Unexcused) *		U = Unexcused *
H = Hospital/Homebound (Present)		I = Truancy
J = In-School Suspension (Present)		* Class cuts
		* Tardies to class of ten (10) minutes or more
		V = Left School Before End of Day (Tardy, Excused)
		W = Office (Present)

*May count toward the loss of credit at the high school level and for high school courses taken at the middle school.



Multi-Tiered System of Supports (MTSS)

- Attendance procedures
- Parent notification requirements
- Florida Statutes
- MTSS interventions
 - Check-in/out, mentors, progress reports
 - Counselor, Licensed Mental Health Provider (LMHP), IEP/504 Plan
- Possible consequences (revoke/withhold)
 - Driver's license/permit (ages 14+)
 - LearnFare funding (temporary cash assistance)
 - Credit withheld
- Truancy court steps



Multi-Tiered System of Supports (MTSS) Meetings

- Early identification of at-risk students
- Targeted family meetings to address concerns
- Intensive **services** for students
- Attendance agreements
- Letters populated in FOCUS (SIS)
 - Parent invite memo
 - Parent outcome memo
 - interventions and consequences
 - Attendance laws/agreements

September 9, 2025

Parent/Guardian of [REDACTED]
Naples, FL 34120

MEETING NOTICE OF MTSS (MULTI-TIERED SYSTEM OF SUPPORTS) TRUANCY TEAM MEETING

To the Parent/Guardian of [REDACTED]:

State of Florida Compulsory School Attendance Laws require all children who have attained the age of six (6) years by February 1 of any school year, or who are older than six (6) years of age but who have not attained the age of sixteen (16) years, to attend school regularly during the entire school term.

[REDACTED] has approached the following number of choices: 8

An MTSS meeting will be held to review your child's attendance record, discuss interventions, and outline recommendations in an attempt to avoid a referral to the Truancy Court. Your attendance and participation in this meeting are critical to your child's success. Please plan to attend the meeting for [REDACTED] at Big Cypress Elementary School (8331) scheduled on:

09/16/2025 at 10:20 am

Parents failing to properly enroll or require their children to attend school regularly may be found to be guilty of a misdemeanor of the second degree punishable as provided in the law.

TIPS FOR PARENTS...

Elementary - Pre-K through 5th grade:

- Set a regular bedtime and morning routine
- Don't let your child stay home unless sick
- Avoid medical appointments and extended trips when school is in session

Secondary - 6th through 12th grade:

- Make school attendance a priority
- Talk about the importance of showing up to school every day, missing school should be a rare occurrence
- Help your child maintain daily routines, such as finishing homework and getting a good night's sleep

Tue, September 16, 2025

Parent/Guardian of [REDACTED]
Naples FL [REDACTED]

MTSS ATTENDANCE/TRUANCY MEETING DOCUMENTATION

To the Parent/Guardian of [REDACTED]:

In an effort to improve attendance, the following is a summary of meeting notes that shall serve as documentation of recommendations/interventions offered to your child in an attempt to improve attendance and remain in compliance with Florida law:

Recommendations/Interventions:	Documentation Provided:
File petition for Truancy Court	Attendance Brochure
Frequent progress reports	Attendance laws agreement
If unexcused/validated absence continue, a referral to outside agencies may be submitted (JARS, LST referral, CINS/FTNS)	On-time Flyer
Monitor student progress	

Resources	Outside Agencies
Parenting/Counseling/Parent Support	Crisis counseling (for less)
*Parenting Wisely (Text or Young Child Edition)	*AYOW Kids - 239-261-4404
*Angelica Paz @ Angelica@haleyfoundation.org	*Valerie's House - 239-204-5804
*Parenting Workshop: Digitized Discipline	
*239-343-5101 or email itemsandmore@haley.org	Counseling / Mental Health Services
*Programs for Parents (pre-teens-12 teenage children)	*Luthera Services Florida
239-455-4500	Naples - 239-823-3928 / Immokalee - 239-278-5400
Collier CARES APP	*David Lawrence Center (DLC)
	Naples - 239-455-8590 / Immokalee - 239-657-4434
	*Elite DNA Therapy Services - 239-223-2251
	*CPE Mobil Crisis Unit/Counseling - 844-395-4432

For Florida Statute 1003.21: The State of Florida Compulsory Attendance Laws require all children who have attained the age of six (6) years or who will have attained the age of six (6) years by February 1 of any school year or who are older than six (6) years of age but who have not attained the age of sixteen (16) years, except as otherwise provided, are required to attend school regularly during the entire school term.

Florida Statute 1003.27(2)(a): In each case of non-enrollment or of non-attendance upon the part of a student who is required to attend some school, when no valid reason for such non-enrollment or non-attendance is found, the district school Superintendent shall institute a criminal prosecution against the student's parent.

Failure to comply with the above-recommended recommendations will result in a Petition for Truancy Court filed with the Judge and could result in an adjudication of habitual truancy and may result in criminal prosecution against the student's parent, per F.S. 1003.27(2)(a).

  **Collier County Public Schools**
Student Relations

ATTENDANCE AGREEMENT & NOTIFICATION OF ATTENDANCE LAWS

TO: (Parent/Guardian)

Parent Of: (Student's name ID)

DATE:

RE: Florida School Attendance Laws (F.S. 1003.01(8), 1003.21, 1003.26, 1003.27, 984.151)

Florida law states that all children who are either six years of age, who will be six years old by February 1 of any school year, or who are older than six years of age but who have not attained the age of 16 years, must attend school regularly during the entire school term.

Children failing to attend school properly will be called to the attention of the Attendance Specialist of the Collier County Public Schools, and if found to be truant or habitual truant may be referred to the Juvenile Circuit Court of Collier County and dealt with as a dependent child. Parents who do not make a legitimate effort to have their children attend school regularly are also liable for prosecution in circuit court.

Failure to comply with the Attendance Laws may result in the filing of a truancy petition, which will require both the parent and child to appear in Truancy Court. Parents failing to properly enroll or require their children to attend school regularly shall be guilty of a misdemeanor of the second degree punishable as provided in law.

1003.27(2)(a) In each case of non-enrollment or of non-attendance upon the part of a student who is required to attend some school, when no valid reason for such non-enrollment or nonattendance is found, the district school Superintendent shall institute a criminal prosecution against the student's parent.

Student Relations Specialist's signature _____ School Administrator's signature _____

Student's signature (if age appropriate) _____

I understand that if my child continues to have unexcused absences, the district will file a petition and may require the parent to appear in Truancy Court.

Parent/Guardian signature _____ Date _____

Today's Learners • Tomorrow's Leaders

5775 Osceola Trail | Naples, Florida 34109 | p: 239.377.0540 | f: 239.377.5506
e: info@collierschools.com | www.collierschools.com



Family Outreach and District Staff

- **CCPS conducts home visits to develop relationships and address barriers**
- Provide schools with attendance data to drive interventions
- Coordinate with school administrators and outside agencies
- Develop and implement intervention plans
- Connect families to resources
 - e.g., transportation, mental health, healthcare
- Ensure district wide compliance and documentation
- Monitor school compliance with attendance letters and board policy
- Follow-up/monitor students in Truancy Court



Data Driven Monitoring and Compliance

- District administrators monitor data
- Automated daily alerts/emails distributed from FOCUS (SIS)
 - Daily attendance per school
 - Overall attendance
 - ISS/OSS
 - Hope Scholarships
 - Bullying investigations
 - Threat Assessments
 - SESIR codes used
- Reports are generated for school administrators
- Regular reviews and monitoring
- Frequent meetings with the Judge



Data Driven Monitoring and Compliance

Monthly District Threat Management (DTMT)

- Includes
 - DTMT members
 - Senior leadership
 - District support staff
 - Sheriff's Office and DJJ
- Meetings analyze trends and concerns
 - Attendance (absences, truancy)
 - Discipline (referrals, ISS/OSS, SESIR)
 - Bullying investigations, Potential Title IX
 - Threat assessments
 - Arrests and Alternative Placements

SY 2024-2025 Attendance/Discipline Overview (EOY)																			
SCHOOL	%PRS present	%ABS absent	ABS 10% absent	MTSS # of students	TRUANCY COURT	ADM REF # of referrals	ISS			OSS			SESIR	SRA # of students	NON-SRA # of students	ALT	MO # of months	SDTMT # of threat	BULI # of Title IX
							# of students	# of events	# of dates	# of students	# of events	# of dates							
AVE	94.24%	5.76%	94	17	5	242	14	26	27	14	19	28	17				1	10	8
BCE	94.87%	5.13%	98	32	1	275	29	40	50	30	53	114	32			2	10	24	15
CPE	94.62%	5.38%	98	14	2	135	16	18	23	9	20	31	14			1	10	28	17
CES	94.04%	5.96%	181	24	1	195	16	29	30	16	21	43	10			1	10	23	4
EPE	93.93%	6.07%	134	77	5	468	45	86	89	39	74	119	93			3	10	32	39
EES	93.50%	6.50%	245	25	1	326	36	44	53	28	41	60	22			1	10	33	12
GGE	95.03%	4.97%	83	21	4	233	24	37	48	12	18	34	5			2	10	30	8
GTE	94.66%	5.34%	78	9		175	14	20	22	5	6	13	1			1	10	32	6
HCE	96.12%	3.88%	22	5		170	21	31	42	18	27	47	18			1	10	18	15
HLE	94.64%	5.36%	96	82	3	212	17	20	20	14	19	27	11				10	16	11
LPE	95.24%	4.76%	47	26		128	17	34	39	3	3	4	3				10	13	15
LTE	93.71%	6.29%	167	28	6	284	17	25	25	24	52	97	31			6	10	15	14
LOE	95.50%	4.50%	90	50	2	384	26	28	32	38	89	120	42			2	10	57	22
LOC	95.41%	4.59%	45	7	1	159	20	26	44	5	7	19	9				1	10	32
LES	93.74%	6.26%	108	23	1	308	41	74	89	15	32	49	13			3	10	29	16
MES	94.34%	5.66%	101	14	3	230	5	10	10	11	16	28	12			1	10	13	3
MDE	94.59%	5.41%	113	21		242	53	80	105	27	42	88	17			1	10	14	5
NPE	95.02%	4.98%	47	25		170	9	12	12	21	36	51	13				10	25	11
OES	95.33%	4.67%	54	10	1	139	18	22	22	14	19	34	19				10	30	22
PLE	93.12%	6.88%	139	16		117	9	9	11	16	24	38	25				10	14	6
PSE	95.20%	4.80%	74	25	1	74	9	12	14	8	9	10	7				10	14	12
PME	95.27%	4.73%	88	23		189	29	48	55	11	20	25	5				10	26	16
PCR	95.11%	4.89%	77	59	8	281	31	47	65	19	24	49	11				10	4	5
PES	93.27%	6.73%	104	15	1	144	21	27	31	25	41	64	23			1	10	22	27
SPE	93.53%	6.47%	173	12	1	257	15	36	56	17	28	55	9			2	10	8	10
SDE	95.12%	4.88%	88	16		294	17	19	24	13	17	37	11			1	10	30	13
SLE	94.40%	5.60%	96	22		115	14	19	49	17	28	56	19			4	10	24	14
TBE	95.29%	4.71%	28	5		107	7	10	18	1	2	2	1				10	12	4
VME	95.52%	4.48%	50	37		239	19	23	24	16	18	27	19				10	39	13
VOE	93.72%	6.28%	102	83	6	229	12	16	18	9	11	14	4				10	22	7
VES	95.32%	4.68%	91	17		126	17	32	42	21	35	73	12			2	10	13	5
CMS	94.31%	5.69%	169	38	6	979	92	159	294	108	147	450	52			1	14	10	86
CPM	94.29%	5.71%	149	26	3	932	194	350	500	92	114	385	56				4	10	63
ENM	94.74%	5.26%	153	18	2	874	207	562	902	106	141	466	61				18	10	23
GQM	95.14%	4.86%	148	24	5	555	137	214	270	111	175	480	29				13	10	17
GVM	95.29%	4.71%	62	4		758	99	223	292	48	66	200	39				7	10	61
IMS	93.04%	6.96%	288	216	26	1,527	269	447	845	222	298	1095	97				33	10	52
MMS	94.63%	5.37%	135	18	3	408	52	69	122	75	96	257	39				4	10	23
NNM	94.70%	5.30%	128	25	1	1,080	78	140	220	70	95	259	19				6	10	37
OMG	94.71%	5.29%	159	3	1	847	136	201	404	83	96	419	36				10	10	37
PBM	94.96%	5.04%	104	32	2	526	100	153	226	73	104	328	28				1	10	29
ARR	94.82%	5.18%	227	1		795	191	370	498	84	97	410	44				12	10	26
BCH	94.36%	5.64%	229	3		1,842	87	149	242	88	120	455	55				11	10	24
GQH	94.02%	5.98%	383	14	2	1,880	430	977	1431	230	368	1388	99				2	43	10
GCH	93.17%	6.83%	404	3	1	1,598	128	191	248	61	71	376	52				2	24	10
IHS	91.61%	8.39%	612	65	11	1,122	230	379	589	148	192	777	67				3	36	10
LHS	92.57%	7.43%	425	18	6	2,442	268	693	846	136	171	898	101				1	46	10
LWH	95.47%	4.53%	33	6		85	6	6	13	4	4	23	2				1	10	1
NHS	94.11%	5.89%	273	5		1,018	139	219	351	114	141	573	79				1	38	10
PRH	94.16%	5.84%	375	14	2	1,862	269	471	745	142	189	754	109				31	10	36
EVG	93.09%	6.91%	36	4		127	9	17	24	8	10	33	10				2	10	14
BHS	68.22%	31.78%	353	2		203	22	28	58	67	77	268	21				11	20	7
NB-I	86.70%	13.30%	39	11		35	3	7	11	13	17	52	2				10	1	1
NB-N	91.35%	8.65%	30	2		18	2	2	4	4	6	18	2				1	10	8
PACE	73.65%	26.35%	89	1		1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1				1	10	1
PHX-I	76.73%	23.27%	144	23		175	3	3	9	83	160	352	13				6	2	1
PHX-N	78.53%	21.47%	221	11	7	384	64	138	371	119	248	780	52				15	1	1
TAPP-I	68.86%	31.14%	62			1				1	1	10	1				10	23	2
TAPP-N	72.49%	27.51%	61			1				1	1	5	1				10		
BPA	93.13%	6.87%	71	9		4	1	1	2	3	3	7					10	2	1
GCA	94.91%	5.09%	89	2		334	38	49	59	33	45	89	7				1	10	12
ICA	95.95%	4.05%	33			49	8	8	13	5	5	11	1				10	5	1
IPA	93.95%	6.05%	94	4	1	296	16	20	27	30	50	67	4				2	10	9
MCM	95.00%	5.00%	28	2		166	40	58	79	12	16	33	5				10	5	
MIA	94.66%	5.34%	43			50	9	10	11	15	21	66	10				2	10	3
MCA	96.32%	3.68%	93	23		108				83	107	220	10				20	28	7
NCA	94.48%	5.52%	133	5		20	6	7	8	13	18	32	3				10	10	
OCA	77.82%	22.18%	88	1														10	
TOTAL	94.05%	5.95%	9,071	1,472	135	29,440	3,971	7,280	10,891	2,950	4,270	13,507	1,731	79	15	413	700	1,532	893



Training and Professional Development

Professional Development Resources for Administrators

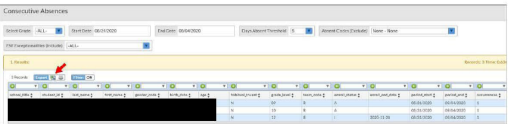
- Comprehensive attendance manual outlines policies, procedures, deadlines, and sample documents
- Targeted training sessions at each monthly administrator meetings

STUDENT RELATIONS

CONSECUTIVE ABSENCES REPORT

Reports > District Reports > Attendance > Consecutive Absences or use this link (bookmark it): Consecutive Absences Report

- Display students with consecutive absences
- Monitor students with consecutive absences to ensure interventions are implemented
- Monitor during FTE windows to maximize student attendance
- Select:
 - Grade level – default to 'all'
 - Start date – select start date from calendar
 - End date – select end date from calendar
 - Select days absent threshold
 - Select absent codes to exclude – default to 'none'
 - ESE Exceptionalities – default to 'all'
 - Click 'run'
- Export to Excel option is available



FTE WINDOW – ATTENDANCE

- Window: September 26 – October 10 (Fall)
- Window: January 23 – February 6 (Spring)
- Students must be in attendance at least 1 day during the window
- Be cognizant when assigning 10 days OSS during the FTE window, ensure at least 1 day is ISS
- Run consecutive absence report **daily** (see above) during the FTE window
 - Don't wait until FTE to start running the report
- Ensure staff call parents by day 2 – continue with phone calls each day during the window
- **Reminder** – Please ensure teachers submit attendance and continuously address the need for timely and accurate attendance taking with teachers before and during FTE
 - Reports are only accurate if teacher attendance is submitted

LUTHERAN SERVICES (LSF)

- Provide families the support they may need while also attempting to correct attendance concerns
- For students ages 6-17, submit a counseling referral when a student has at least 5 absences and any of the following:
 - Student is struggling with complicated conflicts at home or at school
 - The family is in crisis over distressing situations
 - The student exhibits truancy or is ungovernable and/or a runaway
- Counseling provided by Lutheran Services can be individual and/or family counseling
- Typically suggested for families with low income or lack of resources, and for families seeking a preventative style approach
- Not to be confused with a T.U.R.N. case staffing meeting or a CINS/FINS petition for Truancy Court
- This is a preventative approach
- Goal is to provide services to families much sooner than past practice
- Contact assigned attendance specialist or Student Relations with any questions

LSF:

- Receive LSF referral
- Assign referral to a counselor and counselor schedules an 'intake'
- If student/parent are unsuccessful, a case staffing (TURN) meeting is scheduled
- At the case staffing (TURN), the committee can decide if a CINS/FINS petition for truancy court should be filed

CCPS: Student Relations Specialists or any school administrators can file a LSF referral

- Student Relations specialists will file LSF referrals due to attendance
- School administrators can file LSF referrals due to services needed (ungovernable students)

TRUANCY COURT

- If parent/student is non-compliant with interventions/recommendations provided during the MTSS meeting and absences have continued, a Truancy Petition is filed at the courthouse
- Case presented in court for judge to declare student habitually truant
- Once students are active in Truancy Court, attendance meetings are no longer required by the school
- Once students are active in Truancy Court, Student Relations Specialists will continue to monitor attendance and communicate via phone or email with school administrators in order to report school related information back to Truancy Court

PROCEDURES FOR ABSENTEEISM (Appendix B)

A student is considered habitual truant when a child (age 6-16) has fifteen (15) unexcused absences within ninety (90) calendar days, with or without knowledge of justifiable consent of parent/guardian. (F.S. 984.03)

Student Relations Specialists work collaboratively with the schools to decrease absenteeism. For students who begin to accumulate absences, schools will adhere to the following:

- Communication
 - Auto phone dialer for every absence
 - 5th absence phone call by staff or auto dialer to parent/guardian
 - 7th and 10th absences – letter mailed via US Mail

Should attendance not improve, adhere to MTSS process:

- Discuss potential issues/concerns for the absences
- Provide interventions/recommendations for support (counseling/LMHP, parenting classes, referral to outside agencies)
- Document attendance meeting in FOCUS under the Attendance Review tab

Should attendance continue to not improve and student is habitually truant under F.S. 984.03:

- Truancy Court
 - A petition will be filed by the district
 - A court hearing in front of judge
 - Adjudication of habitual truant

MTSS ATTENDANCE MEETINGS (To be conducted by Student Relations Specialists)

PURPOSE OF ATTENDANCE MEETINGS

- To provide information to parents regarding attendance state laws and District policies and procedures in order to circumvent further truancy proceedings
- Review and obtain parent/guardian and student signatures on an Attendance Agreement

MTSS ATTENDANCE MEETING PROCESS

- Occur at the request of the school with school administrators, counselors and parents/guardians present
- Student Relations Specialists provide monthly attendance reports to school administration
- Student Relations Specialists are to meet with students only during scheduled initial attendance meetings
- Students may be pulled out of class during attendance meetings under the direction of the school administrator
- Schedule attendance meetings no more than once a month per school, if needed
- TURN Referral Forms may be submitted when the school administration is in agreement that the student/family may benefit from additional services
- Student Relations will submit TURN referral forms if needed



Embracing Community Collaboration

Local Agencies and Support

- Partnerships with local organizations to address external challenges
- Includes delinquency prevention, mental health, and healthcare



Utilizing Truancy Court

Truancy Court is the Last Resort

- Strong partnership and regular meetings
- Circuit 20: One Judge presides over Truancy Court, Delinquency, and Dependency (consistency)
- Court establishes legally binding attendance improvement plans
- Emphasis remains on support, with resource linkage for families
 - e.g., parenting classes, mental health, and healthcare
- School administration ensures implementation of interventions

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE TWENTIETH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT,
IN AND FOR COLLIER COUNTY, FLORIDA

IN THE INTEREST OF: _____ Case No.: _____

TRUANCY PETITION

COMES NOW, Petitioner, Dr. Leslie C. Ricciardelli, Superintendent of The District School Board of Collier County ("the District"), by and through counsel, and petitions this Court to adjudicate the above-named Minor Child (hereinafter "the student") as habitually truant, as defined in § 984.03(27), § 984.151, § 1003.01(8), § 1003.21, § 1003.26, and § 1003.27, Florida Statutes, and alleges as follows:

1. This Court has jurisdiction to hear a truancy petition, pursuant to § 1003.27 and § 984.151, Florida Statutes.
2. The student, _____, whose date of birth is, _____, resides at, _____, and is enrolled at _____ as a student in the _____ grade.
3. The student's Parent(s), _____, resides at _____.
4. In accordance with F.S. § 1003.26, F.S. § 1003.27, F.S. § 984.151(4), and District attendance policy and related administrative procedures, the school has tried on multiple occasions to encourage the student to attend school (see the school documentation appended hereto as Exhibit A):
 - a. The Principal or designee has contacted the Parent(s) on multiple occasions to determine the reason for each unexcused absence or absence for which the reasons were unknown.
 - b. After five (5) unexcused absences or absences for which the reasons were unknown within a calendar month or ten (10) unexcused absences within a ninety (90) calendar day period, the principal or designee referred the case to a Child Study Team (MTSS) and a meeting with the student's Parent(s) was scheduled and held on _____. Home visit took place and attendance laws delivered on _____.
 - c. The child study team implemented interventions to address the problem, was diligent in facilitating services, and reported the case to the Superintendent only when all reasonable efforts to resolve non-attendance were exhausted.
5. The school has made _____ contacts with the student, the Parent(s) of the student, and other interested parties.

DATED this _____ day of _____, 2025.

STATE OF FLORIDA
COUNTY OF COLLIER

Dr. Leslie C. Ricciardelli, who is personally known to me, has sworn to and subscribed this Petition for Truancy before me this _____ day of _____, 2025.

Notary Public Signature

Kristine Shrode, District General Counsel
Sharon Love, Associate General Counsel
5775 Osceola Trail
Naples, FL 34109
Tel. (239) 377-0499

school days during the 2025-2026 school year. A list of school days during the prior school year. A list of school year is attached hereto as Exhibit B.

On the filing of this Petition, the Court shall hear the matter and deliberate the time in its discretion.

The student and the student's parent or guardian

should sanctions or service be ordered by the Court, the student will be required to participate in the

Court shall adjudicate the above-named student to be a habitual truant. The student's Parent(s) to successfully complete

Dr. Leslie C. Ricciardelli
SUPERINTENDENT



Considerations for Process Changes

- Increase funding resources for school districts to better support prevention, intervention, and student services
- Create a direct filing pathway for Judges to submit CINS-FINS (Children/Families in Need of Services) petitions, to:
 - Reduce reliance on intermediary steps (DCF and DJJ)
 - Shorten the overall processing timeline for Lutheran Services
- Enable courts to reserve involvement for the most severe cases, easing caseloads and improving efficiency
- Expand judicial authority by providing judges with more sanction options, allowing for more effective and timely interventions



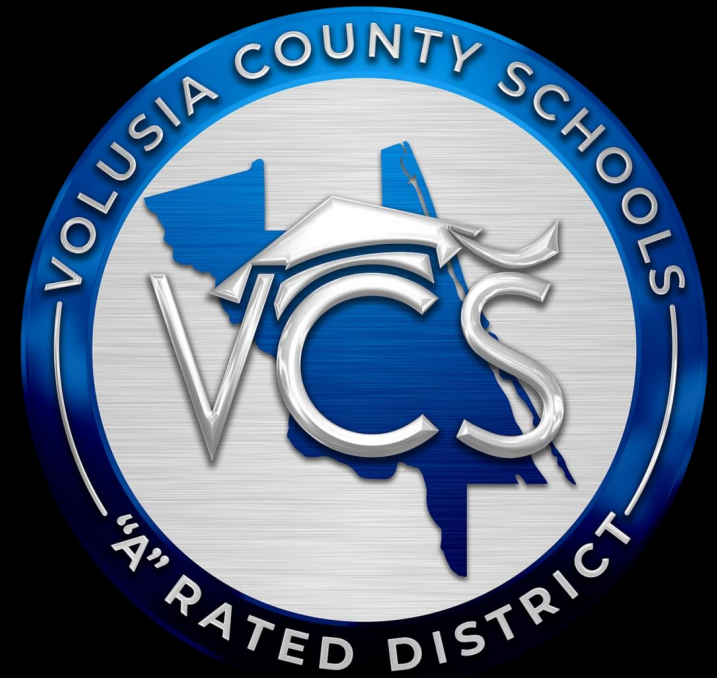


COLLIER COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Systems that Stick: Driving Attendance and Academic Achievement in Collier County

Dr. Leslie Ricciardelli
Superintendent

From Numbers to Action:
*Volusia County's Data-Driven
Attendance Initiative*





Dr. Carmen J. Balgobin

Superintendent of Volusia County Schools

Under Dr. Balgobin's leadership, Volusia County Schools has prioritized student attendance as a critical foundation for academic success. The district's comprehensive approach combines strategic data analysis, community engagement, and innovative technology solutions to address chronic absenteeism and ensure every student has the opportunity to thrive.

YoY Chronic Absenteeism Rates: *The Challenge Ahead*

Students are considered chronically absent if they accumulate 10% or more absences during a school year. This critical threshold represents approximately 18 or more missed school days annually. The data reveals significant attendance challenges that intensified during the COVID-19 pandemic and have persisted in the post-pandemic period.

School Level	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25
Elementary Schools	17.4%	15.0%	13.9%	29.6%	28.6%	28.3%	29.9%	TBD Survey 5
Middle Schools	17.4%	14.8%	15.1%	33.1%	29.2%	30.2%	33.8%	TBD Survey 5
High Schools	14.8%	12.0%	19.6%	33.2%	34.2%	32.6%	35.2%	TBD Survey 5
Alternative Education	76.8%	52.5%	59.0%	79.7%	82.7%	84.8%	83.8%	TBD Survey 5
Charter Schools	19.1%	15.1%	20.4%	24.1%	29.4%	43.6%	42.9%	TBD Survey 5
Online Learning	2.7%	—	—	—	6.1%	5.5%	5.2%	TBD Survey 5
District Totals	16.9%	14.2%	16.2%	31.3%	30.2%	30.9%	34.3%	29.0%

The pandemic's impact is evident in the dramatic increase from 16.2% in 2019-20 to 31.3% in 2020-21. While we've worked diligently to address these challenges, the 2023-24 chronic absenteeism rate of 34.3% demonstrates that attendance recovery requires sustained, systemic intervention. Alternative education settings face unique challenges with consistently higher rates, while online learning programs maintain notably lower chronic absenteeism percentages.

Six Strategic Pillars Driving Student Attendance

Our thorough strategy addresses absenteeism by providing early support, recognizing achievements, and resolving issues before they escalate.

Attendance Matters Campaign

The "Attendance Matters" campaign emphasizes that just 2 days absent per month equals chronic absenteeism. We deploy multilingual materials, social media outreach, and community forums. Business partnerships offer workplace flexibility for parents, with monthly awareness themes ensuring year-round momentum.

Data Analytics Dashboard

The Data Analytics Dashboard enables intelligence-driven action with real-time tracking across all schools. It provides chronic absenteeism warnings, subgroup equity analysis, and identifies seasonal trends. Mobile access empowers administrators to make data-driven decisions during home visits, targeting resources effectively.

Recognition & Incentives

Recognition & Incentives celebrate success at every level. Students earn certificates and assembly recognition. Classes compete in "March Madness" competitions, and schools win \$500 (1st place) or \$250 (2nd place) per grade level. Families receive principal letters and invitations to appreciation events, building a culture of positive reinforcement.

Automated Early Warning System

Our Automated Early Warning System provides real-time intervention. Elementary families receive notifications by 10:00 AM for absences, while secondary alerts are every period. Progressive notifications trigger at days 2, 4, 7, 9, 11, 13, and 14, with bi-weekly summaries and multilingual support.

Multi-Tiered Support System

Tier 1 (All Students): promotes a positive environment with recognition programs.

Tier 2 (5–9% Absences): includes personalized meetings and weekly check-ins.

Tier 3 (10%+ Absences): offers intensive case management, home visits, and support for transportation, health, and housing.

Community Partnerships

Community Partnerships remove barriers together. AdventHealth provides health screenings and telehealth services, plus 168 bikes for transportation. Businesses offer mentoring, job shadowing, and workplace flexibility. Faith groups deliver family support, and media partners amplify our message through PSAs, creating community-wide buy-in.

Implementation Plan

Volusia County Schools has developed a comprehensive, multi-faceted approach to combat chronic absenteeism.

Our implementation plan combines public awareness campaigns, technology-driven notification systems, robust data analytics, tiered support interventions, recognition programs, and community partnerships.

Each component works synergistically to create a culture where attendance is valued, barriers are addressed, and every student has the support needed to attend school regularly.



Public Awareness: Attendance Matters Campaign

Our district-wide "Attendance Matters" campaign educates families and communities about the critical connection between regular school attendance and academic achievement. Through multilingual materials, social media engagement, and community events, we're shifting the conversation around attendance from compliance to opportunity.

Campaign Highlights:

- Multilingual brochures and digital resources explaining chronic absenteeism thresholds
- Social media content featuring student success stories linked to consistent attendance
- Community forums bringing together families, educators, and local organizations
- Partnership materials for businesses and community groups
- Monthly attendance awareness themes integrated into school communications



ALL DAY, EVERY DAY **Attendance Matters**

A day missed here or there might seem insignificant, but every absence adds up and impacts learning. Each school day is a vital piece of your child's educational journey!

When a student misses just
2 **days a month, it may not**
seem like much, but...

It adds up to **20 days** of
lost learning.

Your child misses **30 hours** of
crucial math instruction over
the school year.

They lose **60 hours** of
essential reading and writing
practice.

By graduation, this pattern
results in over a **1 year** of
missed education.

When a student misses just
4 **days a month, the**
impact is staggering...

By year's end, they've lost
40 days of learning

That's **60 hours** of critical
math instruction gone.

It means **120 hours** of vital
reading and writing
practice vanish.

Before they graduate,
they've missed over **2 years**
of school.



Key Message: Missing just two days per month—seemingly minor absences—can lead to chronic absenteeism and significantly impact a student's academic trajectory. Our campaign emphasizes that *every day matters* in building the foundation for lifelong success.

Notification System: Early and Often

Proactive Family Communication

Our automated notification system ensures families receive timely, actionable information about their student's attendance patterns. By communicating early and consistently, we empower parents and guardians to address attendance issues before they escalate to chronic absenteeism.

System Features:

- **Real-time absence alerts** sent via text and email every period
- **Early and Often Letters** at day 2, 4, 7, 9, 11, 13, and 14 day notification
- **Bi-weekly attendance summaries** providing schools and families with clear absence tracking
- **Multilingual support** ensuring accessibility for all families in preferred language
- **Two-way communication channels** allowing families to respond and request support

This approach means families aren't surprised when attendance becomes concerning—they've received multiple touchpoints offering support and resources along the way.

"The early notification system has been transformative. Instead of discovering attendance issues at report card time, we're having productive conversations with families when there's still time to intervene meaningfully." HS Principal



Data Systems and Reporting Features

School-Level Attendance Analytics Dashboard

Principals and school leadership teams access comprehensive attendance data through an intuitive dashboard that transforms raw numbers into actionable insights. This real-time visibility enables data-driven decision-making at the school level.

Dashboard Components:

- Attendance Overview with trend visualizations
- Attendance Summary by grade level and classroom
- Chronic Absenteeism tracking and early warning indicators
- Variance & School Choice attendance patterns

Key Attendance Metrics

- Quarterly Data Trends revealing seasonal patterns
- Attendance by Subgroups identifying equity gaps
- Average Daily Attendance for state reporting
- Average Absences per Student for targeted intervention
- Attendance by Students on Variance for program evaluation



- ❑ The data guides our decision-making and helps us create targeted interventions where they're needed most. By disaggregating attendance information by demographics, grade levels, and other variables, schools can identify specific student populations requiring additional support and allocate resources accordingly.

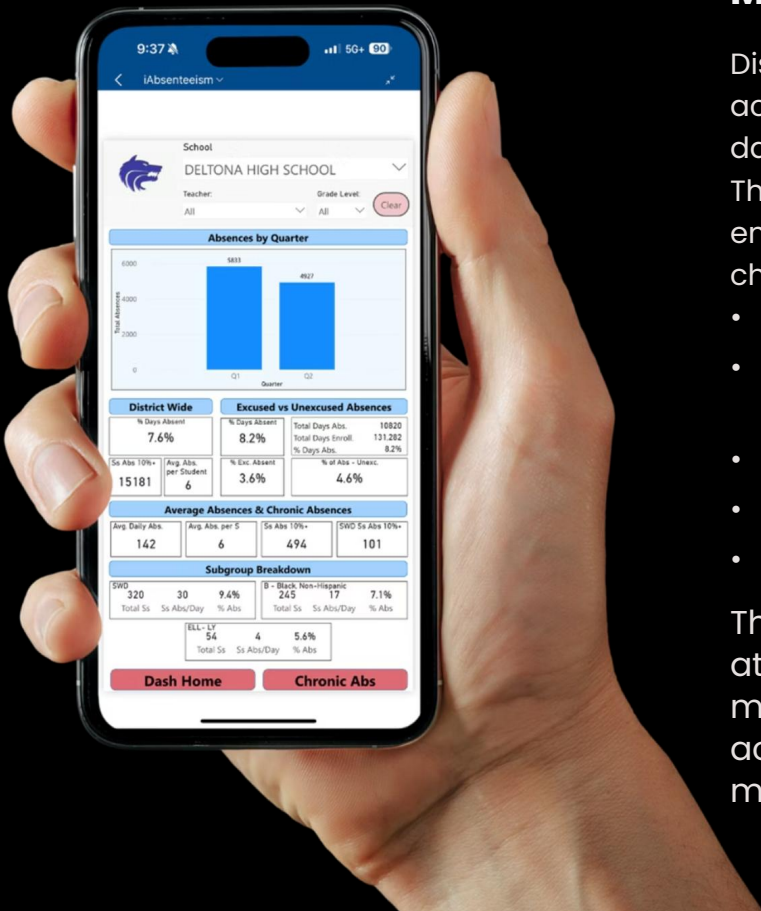
VCS Attendance Mobile Dashboard

Multi-Level Attendance Analytics

District administrators, area superintendents, and school leaders access real-time attendance data through responsive mobile dashboards, enabling monitoring and intervention from anywhere. This accessibility ensures that leadership can respond quickly to emerging patterns and support schools in addressing attendance challenges.

- **Quarterly absence patterns** revealing seasonal trends and intervention opportunities
- **District-wide comparison statistics** identifying high-performing schools and schools needing support
- **Excused vs. Unexcused analysis** highlighting potential policy or communication issues
- **Average & Chronic Absence metrics** for comprehensive attendance and data results
- **Subgroup breakdown data** ensuring equity in attendance interventions

The mobile-first design means principals can review attendance data during morning rounds, district leaders can monitor trends between school visits, and support staff can access student information during home visits or community meetings.



Tiered Support Systems: Meeting Students Where They Are

Recognizing that students face different barriers to attendance, Volusia County Schools implements a Multi-Tiered System of Support (MTSS) framework for attendance interventions. This approach ensures appropriate resources are directed to students based on the severity and nature of their attendance challenges.



Tier 1: Universal Prevention

All Students

- 5 Unexcused absences in 30 Calendar
- Positive school climate and engaging
- Clear attendance policies communicated to all families
- Monthly attendance campaigns
- Recognition programs for attendance
- Family engagement events promoting school connection



Tier 2: Early Intervention

Students with 5–9% Absences

- Individual attendance tracking
- Personalized phone calls and meetings with families
- Identify barriers to attendance
- Connection to community resources (transportation, health services, CINS/FINS)
- Customize individual attendance plan
- Increased check-ins and progress monitoring with weekly check -ins



Tier 3: Intensive Support

Students with 10%+ Absences (Chronically Absent)

- Comprehensive family needs assessment
- Case management & wraparound services
- Collaboration with community agencies and social services
- Home visits by social workers & deputies
- Referral to student services teams and possible court involvement
- Intensive mentoring and counseling support

This tiered approach ensures we're investing resources efficiently while providing increasingly intensive support as student needs escalate. The goal is always to intervene as early as possible, preventing chronic absenteeism before it impacts academic outcomes.

Recognition and Incentives: Celebrating Success

Positive reinforcement plays a crucial role in building a culture of attendance. Volusia County Schools has developed a comprehensive recognition system that celebrates attendance achievements at individual, classroom, and school levels. These incentives motivate students while acknowledging the efforts of families and educators in supporting regular attendance.



Individual Student Recognition

Students with perfect or excellent attendance receive certificates, special privileges, and recognition at school assemblies. Monthly "Attendance Matters" are featured in school communications and social media.



Classroom Competitions

Friendly competitions between classrooms encourage peer support for attendance. Winning classes receive special activities, extra recess time, or classroom celebrations. March Madness



School-Wide Incentives

Schools meeting attendance improvement targets receive district recognition, funding for special programs, and opportunities to showcase their strategies with other schools.

1st Place: \$500 & 2nd Place: \$250 for Elementary, Middle and High



Family Engagement

Families of students with improved attendance patterns receive recognition letters from the school principal and invitations to special appreciation events, reinforcing the home-school partnership.

ALL DAY EVERY DAY
ATTENDANCE MATTERS

In recognition of outstanding reduction in student absenteeism.

Attendance Matters at _____ DOLLARS

AUTHORIZED SIGNATURE Dr. Carmon Balgobin DATE _____



Community Partnership in Action

Addressing chronic absenteeism requires collaboration beyond school walls. Volusia County Schools has cultivated strategic partnerships with community organizations, local businesses, healthcare providers, and civic groups to create a comprehensive support network for students and families.



AdventHealth Partnerships

Collaborations with local health departments and clinics provide on-site health screenings, vaccinations, and telehealth services, removing health-related barriers to attendance.

Transportation Solutions

Working with community organizations to provide alternative transportation options for families facing logistical challenges, including volunteer driver networks and public transit vouchers.

Business Community Engagement

Local businesses provide mentoring programs, job shadowing opportunities, and attendance incentives that help students see the connection between school attendance and career success.

Faith-Based Organizations

Partnerships with churches and religious organizations extend our reach into communities, providing additional mentoring, family support services, and weekend programming that reinforces attendance values.

Community Campaign:

All Hands-on Deck

Our comprehensive community campaign extends the "Attendance Matters" message beyond school buildings and into every corner of Volusia County. Through targeted outreach, public service announcements, and community events, we're making attendance improvement a shared community value.

Campaign Elements:

- **Media partnerships** with local radio, television, and newspapers amplifying attendance messages
- **Community ambassadors** who champion attendance at local events and gatherings
- **Public awareness events** during key times like back-to-school and Attendance Awareness Month
- **Social media campaigns** featuring student testimonials and attendance success stories
- **Business placards** displaying attendance messages in high-traffic community locations

□ When attendance improvement becomes a community priority—not just a school priority—the entire ecosystem supports students in getting to school every day. From employers allowing parents flexibility for school drop-off to neighbors offering rides to community centers reinforcing attendance messages, every stakeholder plays a role in student success.

Contact Information

For more information about Volusia County Schools' attendance initiative or to discuss partnership opportunities, please reach out to our leadership team. We welcome collaboration with other districts and are happy to share resources, strategies, and lessons learned.



Dr. Carmen J. Balgobin

Superintendent for Volusia County Schools

 Phone: 386-734-7190

 Email: Cbalgobi@volusia.k12.fl.us



Mike Micallef

Executive Director for Graduation Assurance and Student Services

 Phone: 386-734-7190

 Email: MRMicall@volusia.k12.fl.us

"Every student deserves the opportunity to succeed, and that opportunity begins with being present in the classroom every day. Through data-driven decision-making, community collaboration, and unwavering commitment to our students, Volusia County Schools is transforming attendance from a compliance issue into a culture of opportunity and achievement."

— Dr. Carmen J. Balgobin, Superintendent



THE FLORIDA SENATE

Tallahassee, Florida 32399-1100

COMMITTEES:

Appropriations Committee on Health and Human
Services, *Vice Chair*
Appropriations Committee on Higher Education
Commerce and Tourism
Education Pre-K - 12
Fiscal Policy
Health Policy
Transportation

JOINT COMMITTEE:

Joint Legislative Auditing Committee

SENATOR TRACIE DAVIS

Democratic Leader Pro Tempore
5th District

November 18, 2025

The Honorable Corey Simon
Education Pre-K - 12, Chair
111 W. Madison Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

Dear Chair Simon,

I respectfully request an excused absence from the November 18, 2025, Education Pre-K – 12
Committee meeting.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Tracie Davis", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Tracie Davis
State Senator
District 05