



THE SCHOOL DISTRICT OF
PHILADELPHIA

Stoneleigh Foundation Webinar

Attendance: A Key Early Warning Indicator of Adverse Outcomes

April 2, 2024

Tonya Wolford, Ph.D.
Chief for Evaluation, Research, and Accountability

Early indicators: Trends Associated to Student Adverse Outcomes



Academic Performance

- Research shows a strong correlation between academic performance and dropout rates; students who are struggling in their classes are less motivated to attend. This is often evident by student disengagement while inside the classroom and a lack of student motivation to contribute during lessons or complete class assignments with a level of fidelity.



Disciplinary Issues

- Students who are disengaged often present discipline issues inside the classroom. Some of the root causes to student problematic behaviors inside the classroom may include social/emotional issues, medical or mental issues, family problems and, difficulty in adjusting to changing environments. Research suggests a link between exclusionary disciplinary practices, like suspensions, and dropping out.



Chronic Absenteeism

- Frequent absences are a significant risk factor for disruptions in educational progress. Major reasons for students not attending school include: lack of interest or student engagement in their classes, health reasons, family obligations at home, transportation issues, and too early of start time for school.

**What does the
research say about
attendance and
chronic
absenteeism?**



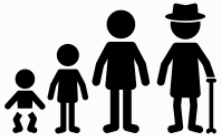
Missing school is associated with negative educational and life outcomes



A large body of research demonstrates that students who are chronically absent are less **likely to read on grade level** by the end of third grade and students who cannot read at grade by this time are **4x less likely to complete high school**.



Multiple studies of chronic absenteeism shows that students who were chronically absent in any one year between 8th and 12th grade were **7x less likely to complete high school**. The more years you are chronically absent the more likely you are to drop out.



Not completing high school is associated with poor economic and health outcomes throughout life, as well as an increased risk of incarceration.

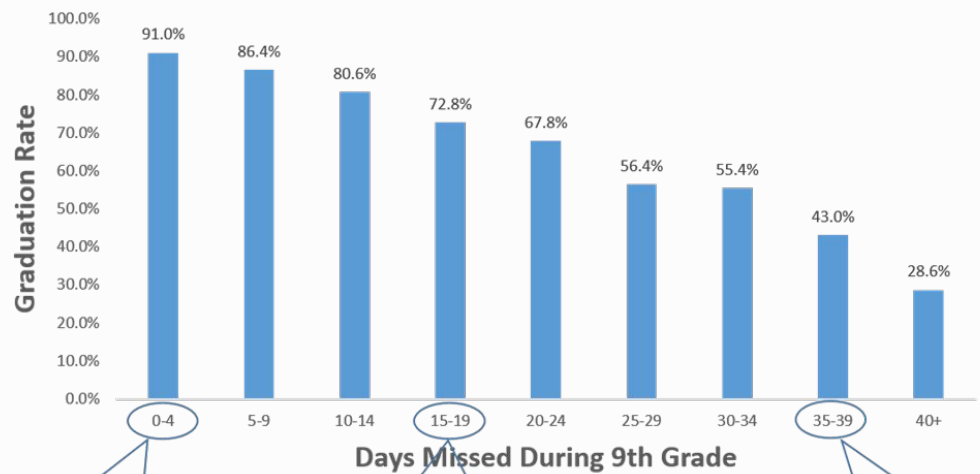
The fewer days a child misses in Kindergarten, the more likely they will read on grade level.

- Kindergarteners who attend school consistently are more likely to read on grade level by the end of Kindergarten. This trend continues in first grade.
- Kindergarteners who are chronically absent in Kindergarten are likely to continue to be chronically absent in later grades.



9th grade attendance is closely tied to graduation rates

- The better a student's attendance in 9th grade, the higher the probability that he or she will graduate on time.
- No matter what your attendance rate is, a few more absences is associated with a meaningful drop in graduation rate.
- Even if a student misses a lot of school early in the year, strong attendance during the second half of the school year improves their chances of graduating on time dramatically



"I was sick for a couple of days in the fall, but those are the only days I missed."



9 out of 10 Graduate

"Once or twice a month I take a day off, and I was sick a couple of times."



7 out of 10 Graduate

"Most weeks I take Friday off."



4 out of 10 Graduate

According to research, the root causes of chronic absenteeism can be grouped into three general categories. Students who...

Cannot Attend	Will Not Attend	Do Not Attend
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Poverty related issuesLack of resourcesChronic physical or mental illnessUnreliable transportationHousing instabilityFamily responsibilities (work, parenting, childcare etc)Family emergencies	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Fears of safety, exclusion, or negative relationships at school or near schoolMistrust of the educational systemUnequal access to quality instruction and academic barriers that result in disengagement such as lack of appropriate supports or enrichment opportunitiesDisconnect between student learning and economic opportunityLack of teachers who reflect cultures, ethnicities and languages	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Students and their families are not aware of the importance of attending schoolEspecially true in the early grades, with kindergarten being viewed as optionalBelief that absences are okay as long as they are excused

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