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Superintendents Webcast

Aug. 14, 2024



Kentucky Department of
EDUCATION

Agenda

Welcome and Updates

Robbie Fletcher, Commissioner of Education

Kentucky Department of Education Updates

Jennifer Ginn, KDE Director of Communications

Kentucky Board of Education Updates

KBE Chair Sharon Robinson, Ed.D.

2024 Continuous Improvement Summit

Associate Commissioner Kelly Foster, KDE Office of Continuous Improvement and Support

Chronic Absenteeism

Christina Weeter, Director, KDE Division of Student Success

Kentucky Early Literacy Leadership Network Update

Micki Ray Marinelli, KDE Chief Academic Officer

Teaching Black History Grant

Thomas Woods Tucker, KDE Deputy Commissioner and Chief Equity Officer

Questions and Answers

KDE Leadership

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Welcome and Updates

Robbie Fletcher

Commissioner of Education



Kentucky Department of

E D U C A T I O N

Important Due Dates for Superintendents Updated

- The updated [Important Due Dates for Superintendents webpage](#) outlines key district deadlines and required reporting timelines.
- Points of contact for all listed programs also have been updated to reflect current Kentucky Department of Education staffing.

Kentucky United We Learn Update

- The convening on July 29 was successful.
- The Kentucky Board of Education held a discussion at its August meeting. Members were actively engaged in conversation and provided questions to take into the study phase.
- Version 4.0 of the assessment/accountability prototype is in development, which will be shared broadly along with another survey. We need **EVERYONE** to respond to get the best results!
- Kentucky United We Learn Council is now moving into the study phase.



KDE's Cathy Gallagher Named Recipient of the 2024 Summer Hunger Heroes Award

- Cathy Gallagher was celebrated as one of the [2024 Summer Hunger Heroes](#) during an event July 18 at Frankfort High School (Frankfort Independent).
- Gallagher, manager of the Summer Food Service Program at the KDE, provides support and resources for the staff behind the scenes who make the summer meals happen for Kentucky students.
- She was nominated by Feeding Kentucky.



Kentucky Receives Highest Rating for Special Education Implementation for 15th Year

- The U.S. Department of Education's Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services issued its 2024 Determination Letters on State Implementation of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), and for the 15th consecutive year, Kentucky has received the highest rating for meeting the requirements and purposes of IDEA Part B.
- The accomplishment reflects the ongoing dedication of Kentucky's special education staff and families to providing exceptional services and support to school-aged children with disabilities.
- In 2024, 21 states and territories, including Kentucky, were determined to meet requirements. Kentucky is one of only two states that have maintained this level of excellence for so many consecutive years.
- This achievement was made possible due to the dedication and hard work of everyone involved in supporting our students with disabilities and their families.

Statewide Chronic Absenteeism Campaign Begins

- KDE kicked off a campaign to raise awareness about chronic absenteeism in August.
- In August and again in January, KDE will be running billboards and ads on radio, streaming and TV to highlight what our students miss when they are not in school.
- [KDE's Chronic Absenteeism webpage](#) is being updated to provide you with more tools and ideas on how to combat chronic absenteeism.
- You'll hear more later in this webcast about how chronic absenteeism is impacting Kentucky.
- For more information or to share what is working in your district, please email [Florence Chang](#) in KDE's Division of Student Success.





KDE Updates

Jennifer Ginn

KDE Director of Communications



Competitive Grants from KDE

FY25 Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program (FFVP)

- Grant applications due: Monday, Aug. 19, 2024, at 4 p.m. ET
- Award Amount: Varies by number of students served.
- Matching Funds Requirement: No

This advertisement is a rebid opportunity from the Kentucky Department of Education to award the remaining funds.

Districts that applied and met the original June deadline do not need to reapply and have been notified of their award.

More information about grants can be found on the [KDE Competitive Grants webpage](#) or by emailing [Jennifer Bryant](#).

Kentucky Applications Now Open for the 2025 U.S. Senate Youth Program

- The 2025 U.S. Senate Youth Program is a merit-based program that takes the most outstanding high school students from around the country to Washington D.C., for a weeklong study of the federal government and the people who lead it.
- Two Kentucky high school students will be selected this fall as delegates and will each receive a \$10,000 college scholarship.
- High school teachers and principals are encouraged to nominate qualified high school juniors and seniors to apply. [Applications for the 2025 U.S. Senate Youth Program](#) are available online and are due Sept. 30.



Applications Sought for Commissioner's Teachers Advisory Council

- KDE's [Commissioner's Teachers Advisory Council](#) (TAC) is comprised of teacher leaders from across the Commonwealth who contribute crucial, diverse perspectives about important issues in schools to the commissioner of education.
- TAC members serve three-year terms. Meetings occur during the school day, so it is important for applicants to confirm with their supervisor that they will be allowed to attend the meetings before applying.
- Educators who are interested in serving must submit a [TAC membership application](#) by Aug. 30.
- For more information, email [Stacy Noah](#).

APPLICATIONS OPEN FOR

**KENTUCKY'S TEACHERS
ADVISORY COUNCIL**



**APPLICATION DEADLINE
AUGUST 30, 2024**



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Kentucky Board of Education Update

Sharon Robinson, Ed.D.

KBE Chair



Kentucky Department of
EDUCATION

August 2024 Board Retreat

- Keynote address from Kentucky State University President Dr. Koffi C. Akakpo
- Discussion on key goals for the commissioner's first year
- Feedback on the Kentucky United We Learn Accountability Prototypes



August 2024 Regular Meeting

- 2024 KIDS COUNT National Data Book
- Kentucky Numeracy Counts update
- KETS Operational Plan for the 2024-2025 School Year



Action/Discussion Items

- Annual policies for Kentucky School for the Blind, Kentucky School for the Deaf and the Area Technology Centers
- Administrative Regulations
 - 704 KAR 3:305
 - 703 KAR 5:080
 - 703 KAR 5:240
 - 704 KAR 3:535
 - 702 KAR 1:116
 - 780 KAR 3:072
 - 780 KAR 3:080
 - 702 KAR 4:090



Welcome to our new members!



Dr. Juston Pate
Supreme Court District 2



Paul Long
Supreme Court District 3



Mike Borchers
Supreme Court District 6

2024 Grissom Award for Innovation in Special Education

Congratulations to our
winners:

- Tracey Francis
- Jennifer Whitt
- Dr. Lynn Petrey



Looking Ahead

KBE Regular Meeting Oct. 7-8, 2024

Kentucky Department of
Education
Frankfort, KY



The background features a collage of educational scenes. The top left shows a line of yellow school buses, with the number '32' visible on the front of one. The bottom left shows a classroom with blue walls, decorated with colorful balloons and framed pictures. Desks and chairs are arranged in the foreground.

2024 Continuous Improvement Summit

Kelly Foster, Ed.D.

Associate Commissioner

Office of Continuous Improvement and Support



Kentucky Department of

E D U C A T I O N

2024 Continuous Improvement Summit

- Registration for KDE's 2024 Continuous Improvement Summit is open!
- The summit will be held on Sept. 23-24 at the Central Bank Center, formerly the Lexington Convention Center.
- This year's keynote is Marck Abraham, author of "What Success Looks Like." He is committed to providing a world-class educational experience that ensures all students achieve their goals of post-secondary college and fulfilling careers.
- The registration form can be found on the [2024 Kentucky Continuous Improvement Summit event webpage.](#)

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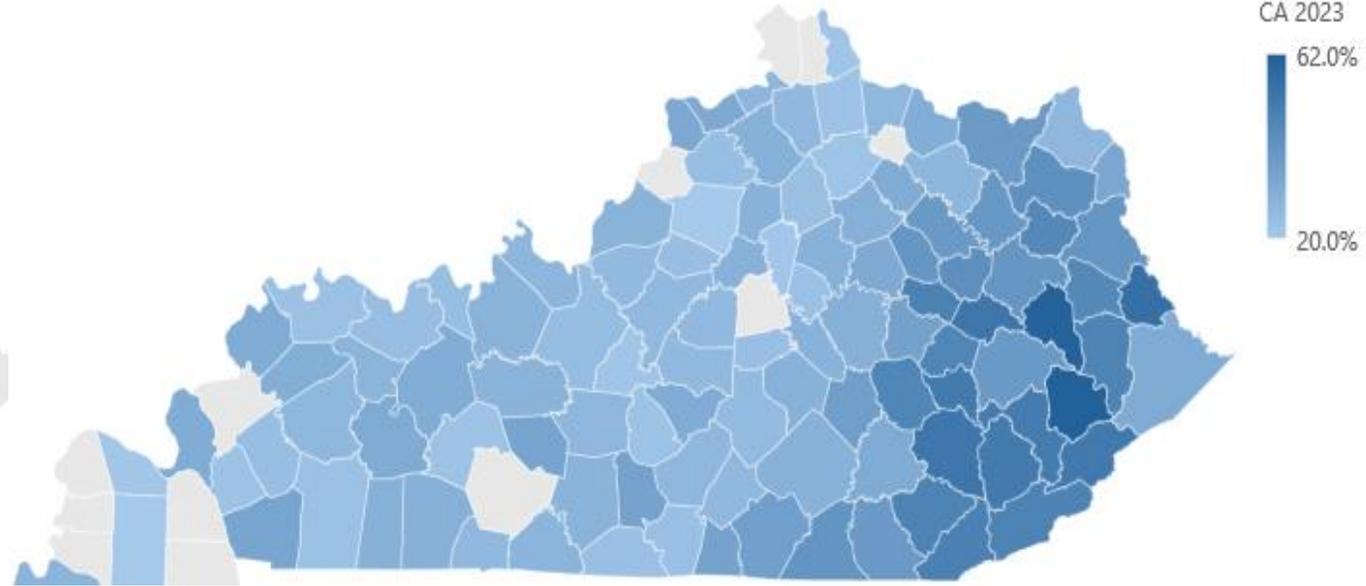
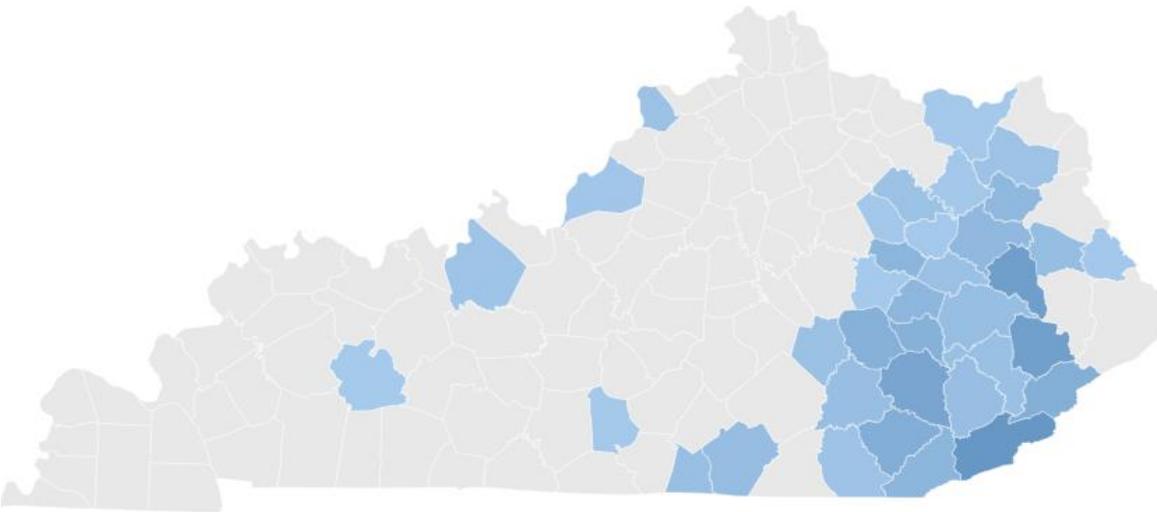
Chronic Absenteeism – Post Pandemic

Christina Weeter, Director
KDE Division of Student Success

Increased Severity of Chronic Absenteeism Pre- and Post-pandemic

Pre-pandemic:
Counties with at least 20% chronically
absent

Post-pandemic:
Counties with at least 20% chronically
absent



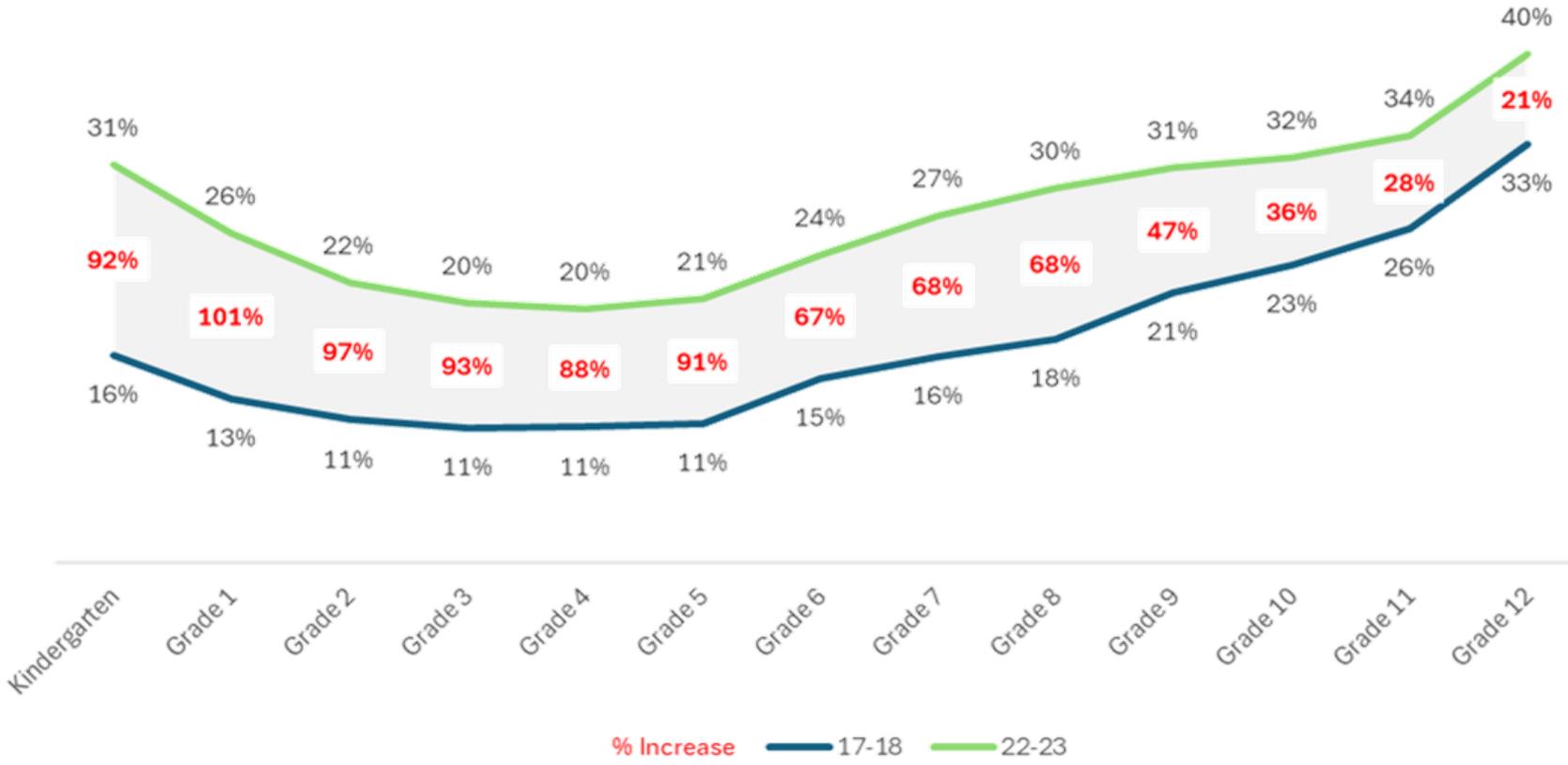
Overall State Averages (ALL Districts)
2017-2018: 17% chronically absent
2022-2023: 30% chronically absent

% of Chronic Absenteeism by Grade Level

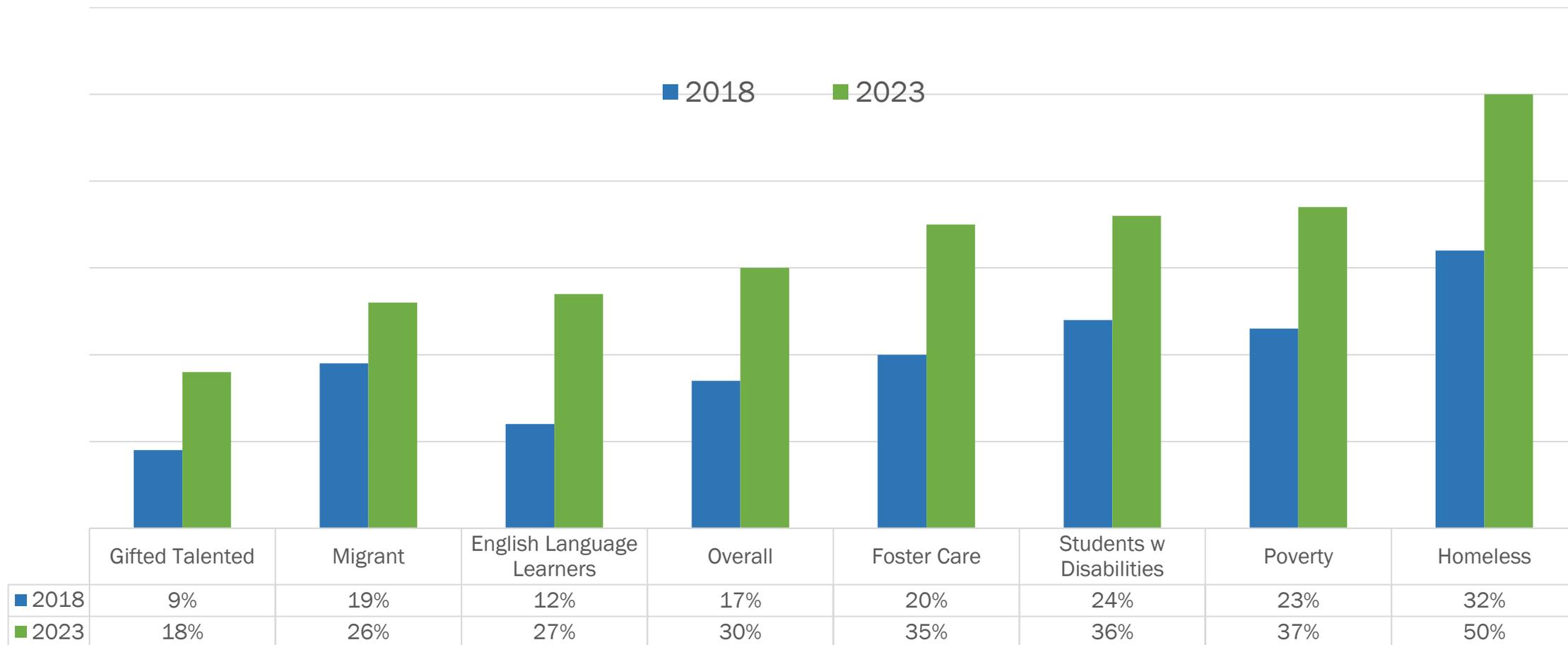
Rates remain highest among high school students

K-1 students have significantly higher rates than other primary/elementary grades.

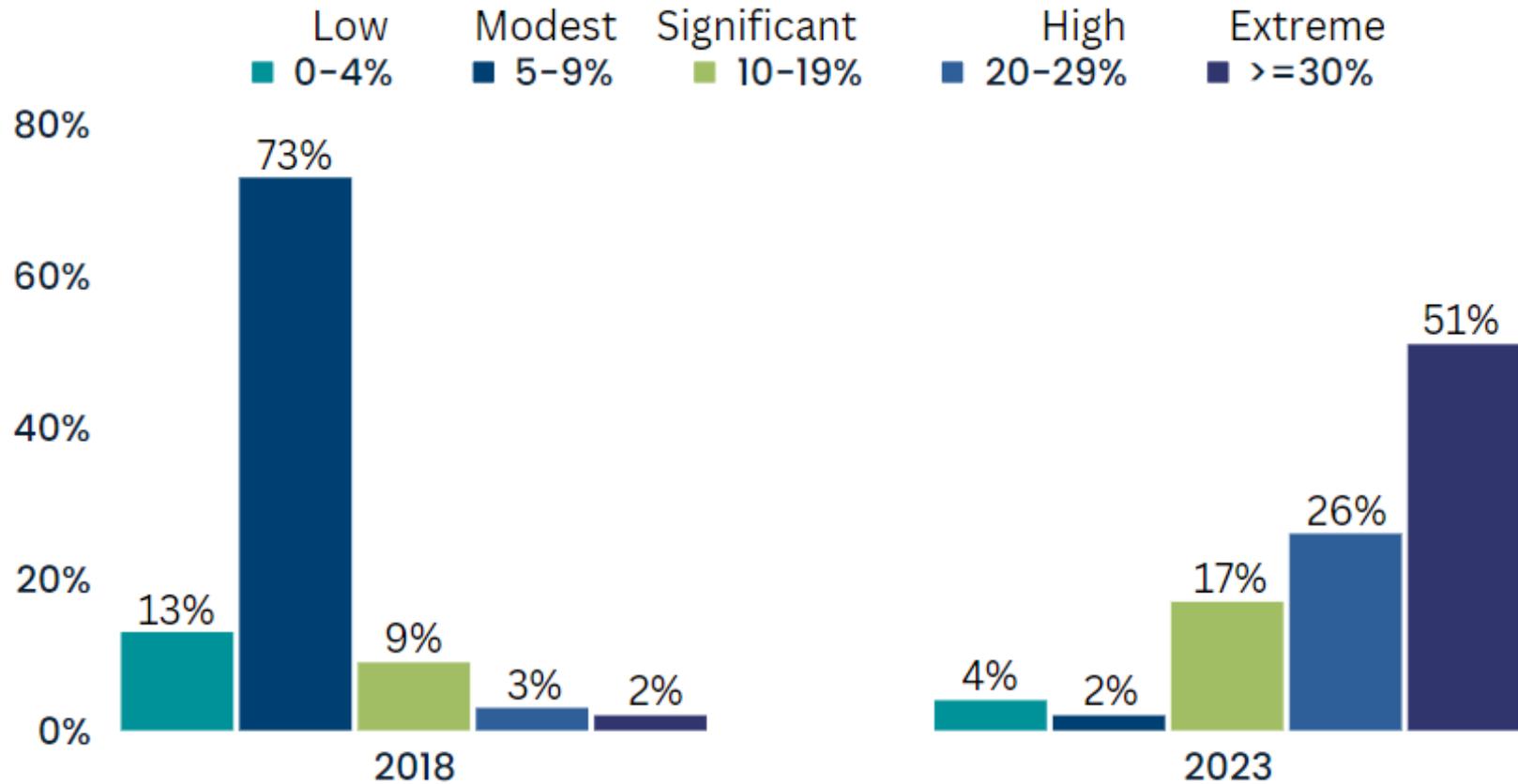
Elementary students had the highest percent increase since the 2017-2018 school year.



Increases in Chronic Absenteeism by Student Group



Chronic Absenteeism at the School Level



Before the pandemic, 5% of students attended a school with high/extremely high chronic absenteeism.

Post-pandemic, 75% of Kentucky students now attend schools with high/extremely chronic absenteeism.



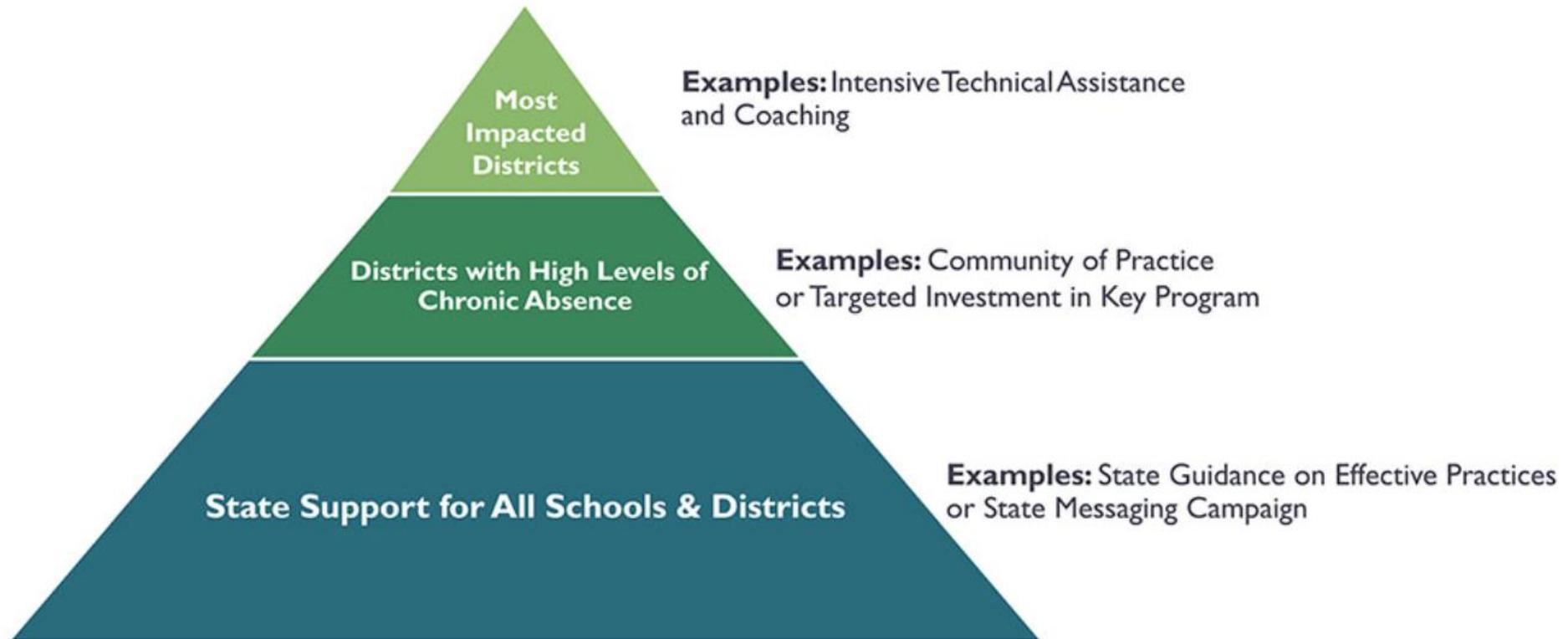
Chronic Absenteeism: Contributing Factors

- **Barriers:** Chronic health condition, family responsibilities, transportation, housing/food insecurity, community violence
- **Aversion:** Academic and/or behavioral struggles, unwelcoming school climate, problem with peers, anxiety
- **Disengagement:** Bored, lack of connection/belonging, lack of enrichment opportunities, habits formed during COVID
- **Misconceptions:** Assumptions about staying home for symptoms of illness, belief that attendance “doesn’t matter” or that only unexcused absences are a problem, underestimating total absences

Source: [Attendance Works](#)

Example of State Tiered Supports

States Should Offer Universal and Targeted Supports



How is KDE supporting districts?

- Messaging campaign and resources to help districts/schools with communicating with stakeholders
- Equip district and school leaders with strategies to address chronic absenteeism
- Training on available data tools to help progress monitor chronic absenteeism

Chronic Absenteeism Resources

- [KDE Chronic Absenteeism Webpage](#)
 - Infographics and resources for families
 - Resources for educators (sample letters to families, etc.)
 - Resources for community leaders
- [KDE Data Sets](#) and [KDE Data Tools](#)
 - Early Warning and Insights Tools
 - Infinite Campus Chronic Absenteeism Report
 - Infinite Campus Transient Student Report
- Webinars on implementing strategies to address improving chronic absenteeism and sense of belonging
- Links to national organizations and resources

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Contact Information

KDE Persistence to Graduation Team

Florence Chang: Florence.Chang@education.ky.gov

Judy Vanderhaar: Judi.Vanderhaar@education.ky.gov

Christina Watford: Christina.Watford@education.ky.gov

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Kentucky Early Literacy Leadership Network Update

Micki Ray Marinelli, Chief Academic Officer
Office of Teaching and Learning

Regional Early Literacy Leadership Network

Purpose: The Kentucky Early Literacy Leadership Network will empower district teams to develop and implement an effective strategy for K-5 literacy grounded in high-quality instructional resources (HQIRs). Specifically, the network will focus on:

- Building sustainable district-level models for implementing early literacy instructional programs connected to HQIRs;
- Developing strong systems and structures for early literacy instruction in schools and district; and
- Leadership support of teacher professional learning communities and effective planning practices.

Overarching Goals and Target Audience

The network will:

- Provide an opportunity for district and school leaders to connect and learn from one another;
- Address challenges/problems of practice in K-5 literacy;
- Support improved teaching and learning experiences for K-5 teachers and students; and
- Increase access to grade-level learning in K-5 literacy.

Partnering Districts:

- 5-7 districts in Eastern, Central and Western Kentucky (approximately 20 districts total).
- District teams of 5-7 people to include:
 - At least 1 district-level leader/decision-maker (superintendent, chief academic officer, supervisor of curriculum and instruction, etc.);
 - At least 2 elementary building principals; and
 - Other team members may include, but are not limited to, instructional coach(s), literacy lead teacher(s), and/or reading specialist(s).

Language Essentials for Teachers of Reading and Spelling (LETRS) Professional Learning

- [Registration for cohort 3](#) is now open! Closes Aug. 30.
 - Learning begins in October 2024.
- Professional learning is FREE for Kentucky public school K-5 educators as part of the Kentucky Reading Academies.
- More than 4,000 educators participated in cohorts 1 and 2.
 - Bright spots and testimonials are featured in KDE's Division of Early Literacy Newsletter. Thank you to those leaders!
 - We would love to feature more if you feel the professional learning has been impactful for your teachers and students.

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Teaching Black History Grant

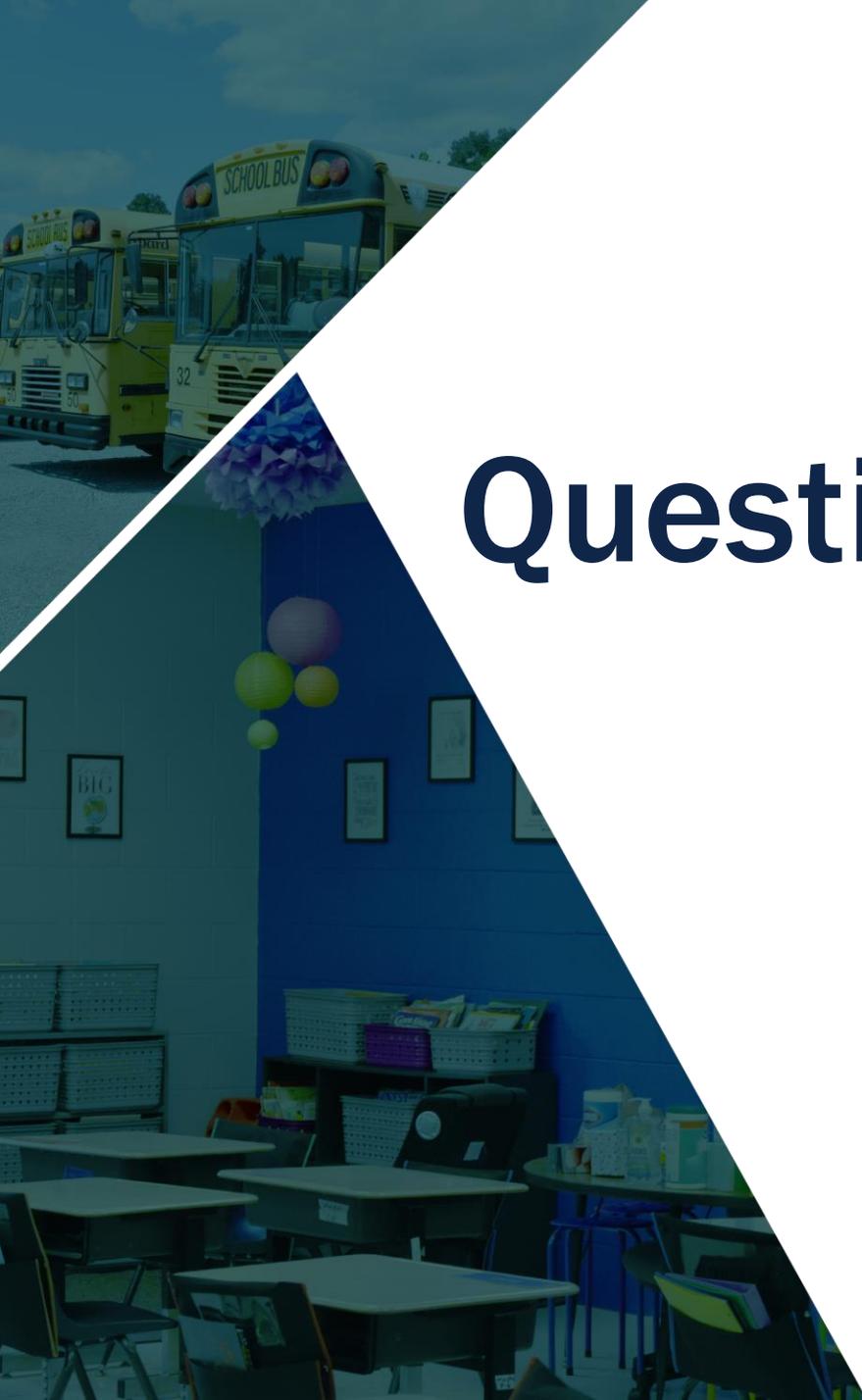
Thomas Woods Tucker,
KDE Deputy Commissioner and Chief Equity Officer

Grant Opportunity for Kentucky Teachers

The Association for Teaching Black History in Kentucky (ATBHK)



- Mini grant opportunity for teachers in K-12th grade to support work around preserving Kentucky's Black history.
- Grant is focused on supporting projects or lesson ideas on Kentucky's Black history.
- Funds can be used for field trips, teaching materials, conferences and special projects.
- Grant amount: \$250-500
- [Apply for a mini grant](#) through the Association for Teaching Black History in Kentucky mini-application. For more information email: robinsons2@berea.edu.

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Question and Answer Session

(Submit Questions in Teams)

KDE Leadership





Important Dates

Education Professional Standards Board Meeting
Aug. 20

Teacher of the Year Ceremony at the Rotunda
Sept. 10

Superintendents Webcast
Sept. 12

Kentucky Board of Education Regular Meeting
Oct. 7-8