

CHRONIC ABSENTEEISM

At a glance

DEFINITION

Chronic absenteeism is defined as missing 10% of yearly school time – or just two days a month – for excused or unexcused reasons throughout the school year.

Chronic Absenteeism ≠ Truancy

UNDERSTANDING CAUSES

- **Misconceptions:** absences are only a problem if they are unexcused; missing two days per month doesn't affect learning; sporadic absences are not a problem; attendance only matters in older grades
- **Negative School Experiences:** struggling academically or socially; bullying; lack of appropriate accommodations for disability; suspensions/expulsions; negative attitude of parents due to their own school experience
- **Lack of Engagement:** lack of culturally relevant, engaging curriculum; no meaningful relationships with adults in school; stronger ties with peers outside of school; unwelcoming school climate; failure to earn credits/no future plans; mental health challenges
- **Barriers:** illness and lack of health, vision, and dental care; unsafe path to school; poor transportation; involvement with child welfare or juvenile justice; trauma

STRATEGIES FOR SUPPORT

Know Your Data

Track students who miss school time for any reason. Early identification of students and trends in absenteeism (e.g., time of year) will help with home communications and specific interventions.

Communicate with Home

Write or call families/ caregivers as early as possible with student-specific attendance data to raise awareness. Help with action plans to overcome barriers.

Identify Root Causes

Assess prevalent reasons for absences. Create positive home and community partnerships to build support systems for health, transportation, school climate, etc.



Kentucky Department of
E D U C A T I O N

2 ABSENCES
PER MONTH
x9 MONTHS
OF SCHOOL

**LIKELY TO FALL
BEHIND IN SCHOOL**

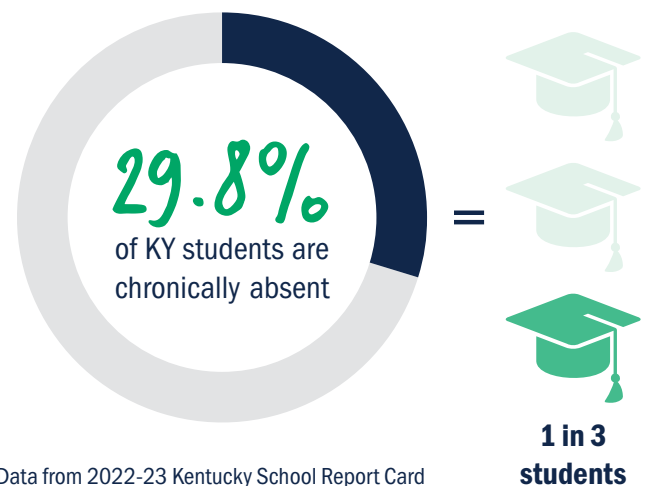
Missing School for ANY Reason, Excused or Unexcused, Puts Students at Risk

- Family Vacation
- Illness
- Didn't Want To Go
- Suspension
- Doctor's Appointment
- Homelessness
- Missed The Bus
- Slept In

STATE DATA

Infinite Campus Pathway:

KY State Reporting → KDE Reports → Chronic Absenteeism



Data from 2022-23 Kentucky School Report Card

