Chronic Absenteeism

**At a Glance**

**DEFINITION**

Chronic absenteeism is defined as a student who misses ten (10) percent or more of his/her enrolled academic year.

**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

✗ Barriers: illness and lack of health, vision, and dental care; unsafe path to school; poor transportation; involvement with child welfare or juvenile justice; trauma

**Understanding Causes**

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

- Family Vacation
- Illness
- Missed the Bus
- Sleeping In
- Didn’t Want To Go
- Homelessness
- Suspension
- Doctor’s Appointment

**State Data**

Infinite Campus Pathway:
KY State Reporting → KDE Reports → Chronic Absenteeism

16.8% of KY students are chronically absent.

Data from 2016-17

1 in 6 students

**Strategies for Support**

**Know Your Data**

Track students who miss school time for any reason. Early identification of at-risk 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 health, transportation, school climate, etc.

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