

Here + Healthy

WHAT IS CHRONIC ABSENTEEISM?

Missing 10% of the school year for any reason, including both excused and unexcused absences .

10% of the school year is an average of about two days per month, but it adds up to almost a full month of school missed.



HEALTH + CHRONIC ABSENTEEISM

Health issues are a leading cause of chronic absenteeism.

Health-related conditions resulting in missed school include:

Asthma

Diabetes

Influenza

Obesity issues

Parental health issues

Seizure disorders

Oral health

Vision problems

Mental health

Anxiety

Trauma



PROVEN SOLUTIONS

What can schools and districts do to address the health-related causes of absenteeism?



Create a supportive school climate that promotes health and wellbeing



Implement an early warning system to identify students at greatest risk



Improve the indoor and outdoor environment of the school to reduce asthma triggers



Ensure that students have chronic disease management plans



Utilize staffing structures to support students with a range of needs



Partner with community entities to create wrap-around models of care

AWARENESS LEADS TO ACTION

This year, for the first time, all states are required to include chronic absenteeism rates in their school report cards. This can encourage schools and districts to:



Track reasons for absences and identify the underlying health causes



Use ESSA funds to deliver evidence-based programs



Ensure school staff receive professional development



Collaborate with community partners