

Together We Can...

Improve Attendance & Decrease Chronic Absenteeism



Together We Can

PATERSON PUBLIC SCHOOLS 
Preparing All Children for College and Career
Together We Can

Attendance Matters!
#PPShowUP

Missing 5 school days =
Missing 28 Instructional Hours

Attendance Matters
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Assistant Superintendent ~ Paterson Public Schools



Our 2016-2017 NJDOE Snapshot Data in PPS!

- In 2017 the NJDOE C.A. Snapshot Release reported that Chronic Absenteeism at PPS Elementary Schools were as low as 5.71% and as high as 45.44%.
(3,704 Students)
- At the Secondary Level, Chronic Absenteeism ranged from 19.30% to as high as 97.66% .
(2,852 Students)
- District Wide 5,606 students were Chronically Absent.
(25.67%)
(5,606 Students)



What is Chronic Absenteeism?

- **Definition:** Defined in New Jersey's ESSA State Plan as the percentage of a school's students who are not present for 10 % or more of the days that they were in membership at a school.
- **Days in Membership:** NJ SMART defined as the number of school days in session in which a student is enrolled/registered during the annual reporting period from July 1 through June 30. The count will commence the first day the student is expected to start , even if they do not attend that day.
- **School Day in Session:** A day on which the school is open and students are under the guidance and direction of teacher; the day must be 4 hours or more to be considered a full day (kindergarten is 2.5 hours)

Another way to calculate...



- A student is considered Chronically Absent if he/she is absent 10% of the number of days of school has been in session for the year.
- For Example: If we have been in session for 75 days, any student that has been absent **7.5 days** is considered chronically absent!
- Today is the 102 day of school. If a child has been absent **10** or more days, he/she is chronically absent.

Stakeholders Need to Know How ADA & Truancy different than Chronic Absenteeism?

- **It's Different than Average Daily Attendance**

Average Daily Attendance (ADA) measures the percentage of a school's student body that attends school on a typical day!

- **It's Different than Truancy**

Truancy is defined as 10 or more cumulative unexcused absences under state code N.J.A.C. 6A:16-1.3.

He was sick and suspended, is he really chronically absent?

The answer is YES!

- Each day a student is suspended, it is counted as an absence!
- If a child is suspended for 19 days, he/she will be considered chronically absent!
- A child that has a “doctor’s note” has an excused absence for **truancy purposes only**! Sick days add up to Chronic Absenteeism ...

Impact for Schools

Comprehensive & Targets Schools



- Under the state plan for ESSA, chronic absenteeism is considered a “**Marker of Success**” for identifying schools. (**School Profiles**)
- The new metric will now take into account chronic absenteeism school wide and for **subgroups** when identifying comprehensive and targeted schools in need of support.
- **Attendance does impact instruction!**

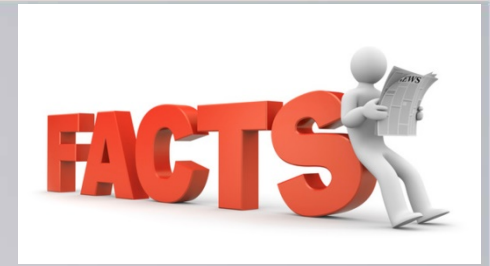
Missing 12 days of school = Missing 66 instructional hours



Facing the Facts...

1. Improving student attendance is one of Madame Superintendent's top **priorities!**
2. Chronic Absenteeism is now a **required** reporting metric under the federal Every Student Succeeds Act (**ESSA**)
3. Chronic Absences predicts **lower third-grade reading proficiency, course failures and eventual dropout!**
4. Chronic Absences weakens our communities and our local economy.

Facing the Facts!



5. Chronic Absenteeism can be reduced when schools, families and community members **work together** to monitor and promote student attendance!
6. Improving attendance and reducing Chronic Absenteeism takes commitment, **collaboration**, accurate data input and developing and maintaining relationships!

Your Districts needs everyone to #ShowUp!

PPS Strategies

- District Wide Day to Day Attendance Process
- City Wide Attendance Awareness Banners in all Wards
- Continuous Discussions and Conversations regarding Attendance
- Most School Improvement Plans have a goal around Chronic Absenteeism
- Continuous Monitoring of the Data by the Schools and Central Office
- Monthly Reports produced by M.I.S.
- District-Wide Promotion of Events (No Uniform Pass/ Free H/W & 100% Days)
- All principals and school staff are reminded of the proper attendance codes
- The Paterson Public Schools **#PSShowUp Attendance Matters!** Task Force





Paterson Public Schools Current Data 2017-18



- We are on a **downward positive trend!** *
- In a month to month comparison from 2016 – 2017, we have found that the number of students that are chronically absent have decreased – especially in the Elementary Schools.
- In December, 2017 there was **44% decrease** and in January, 2018 a **42.77% decrease!**
- That is **+/- 4,087** less students that were chronically absent this time last year!



What's the Game Changer?




- Start a School-Wide Campaign “Attendance Matters!”
- Provide information about Chronic Absenteeism often.
- Discuss the importance of education, study skills and the impact of chronic absenteeism **every opportunity** you get to Parents/Guardians, Students, Community and Teachers.
- Make Chronic Absenteeism part of your meeting agendas.
- Communicate this message at every meeting, be repetitive! In the morning, at dismissal, at conferences, at Back to School Night, Report Card Night, Report Card Night and time.... !
- **Motivate** Parents to be partners with your school!
- Talking to Parents/Guardian and the Community about the importance of attending school is the **GAME CHANGER!!!**


We need your help! **Together We Can!**

Remember, Showing up Matters!

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Decrease Chronic Absenteeism



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Paterson Chronic Absenteeism Task Force
Paterson Public Schools
Principals, Administrators and Parents

Thank you!!!!