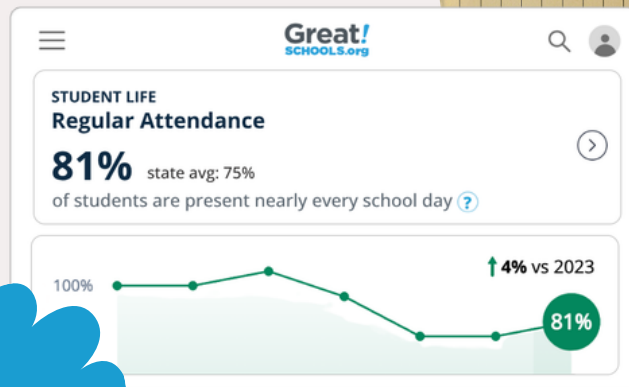


Sample insights from GreatSchools chronic absenteeism dataset

A preview of insights researchers and organizations can generate using GreatSchools' school-level chronic absenteeism data



Introduction

Chronic absenteeism — missing 10% or more of school days — is one of the strongest indicators of student disengagement and is associated with lower academic achievement, reduced graduation rates, and long-term educational inequities. Yet attendance data remains fragmented across states and difficult to analyze at scale.

GreatSchools aggregates, standardizes, and maintains chronic absenteeism data across thousands of public schools and makes this dataset available for licensing to researchers, nonprofits, government agencies, and partners.

Whether you're studying attendance trends, educational equity, or student outcomes, GreatSchools data can help power impactful analysis. This document provides sample insights that can be derived from the dataset (along with an overview of its coverage and scope) and ideas for potential research applications.

Data snapshot:



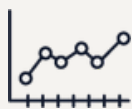
73,000+
schools



32 states
+ Washington, D.C.



~91%
public school
coverage



Multiple years of
historical data



School-level
granularity



Demographic
subgroup
reporting

Key insights

GreatSchools' chronic absenteeism dataset supports a wide range of research and analytical applications. The examples below illustrate just a few of the insights that can be derived from this nationally scaled, school-level dataset.

1

Absenteeism remains elevated post-pandemic. National median rates remain above pre-2020 levels.



2

High schools have recovered more slowly. Attendance challenges remain concentrated in upper grades.



3

Homeless students experience the highest absenteeism rates. Median rates are nearly twice the overall student population.



4

Geographic variation is substantial. Differences within states often rival differences between states.



5

Most schools cluster below 30%, but extreme outliers persist. A long tail of schools continues to experience severe absenteeism.



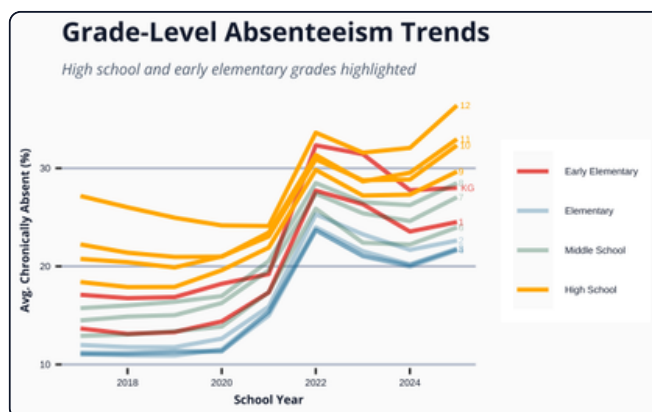
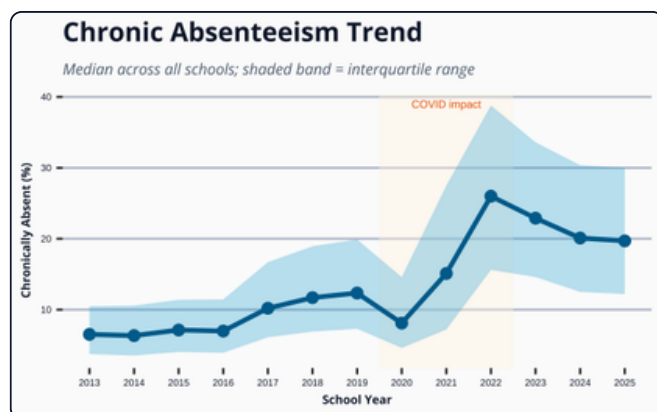
Sample findings

The examples below highlight a few of the questions that can be explored using the GreatSchools chronic absenteeism data and the types of insights it can help uncover.

Finding 1

Attendance recovery remains uneven

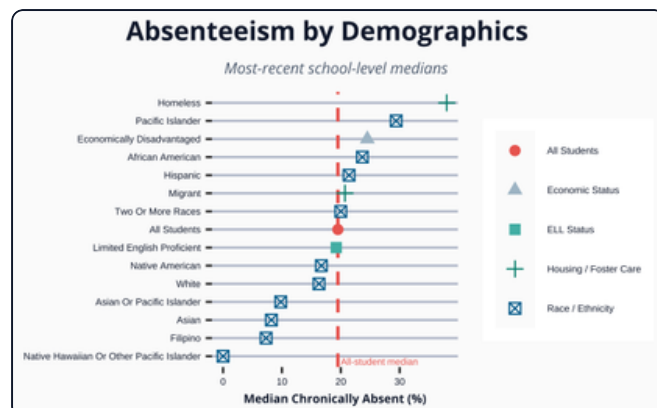
National chronic absenteeism peaked around 2022 (median 26%), driven by COVID-19 disruptions. By 2025, the national median had declined to 19.7%, but recovery remains uneven, with high school grades remaining well above pre-pandemic levels and trending higher. Most other grades have rebounded but are still higher than pre-pandemic levels.



Finding 2

Attendance gaps persist across student groups

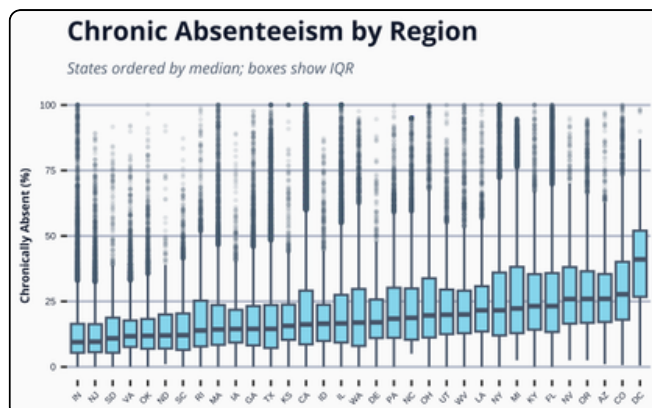
There are large demographic gaps in chronic absenteeism rates. Notably, homeless students exhibit absenteeism rates (36.4%) nearly 1.9x the national median (19.5%). Economically disadvantaged, African American, and Pacific Islander students also show meaningfully elevated rates.



Finding 3

Where a student lives still matters

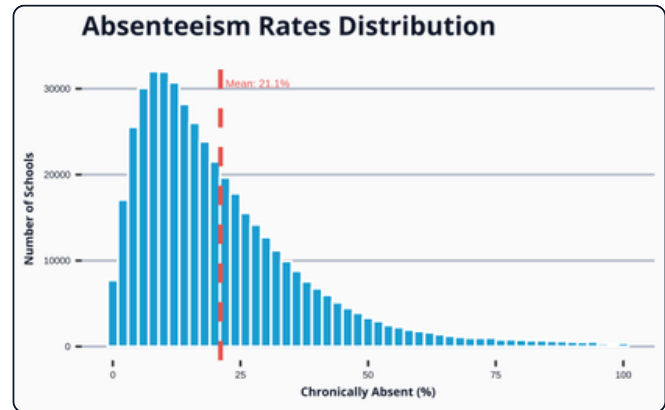
Geographic variation is substantial both between and within states. State medians span 31.6 percentage points, while the average within-state interquartile range is 17.4 points — meaning local conditions drive nearly as much variation as state-level policy differences.



Finding 4

Attendance challenges are concentrated in a subset of schools

The distribution of chronic absenteeism percentages is skewed — most schools cluster below 30%, but a meaningful tail extends to 100%.



Research applications

GreatSchools' chronic absenteeism data can support a wide range of research and policy applications. By providing standardized school-level chronic absenteeism data across thousands of public schools, the dataset enables researchers to examine patterns, identify disparities, evaluate interventions, and better understand the factors that influence student engagement and success. Potential applications include:

Education policy



- Attendance recovery
- School accountability
- Intervention effectiveness

Equity research



- Student subgroup outcomes
- Opportunity gaps
- Community-level disparities

Housing & mobility



- Neighborhood attendance patterns
- School choice impacts
- Residential stability

Public health



- Mental health and attendance
- Community-level disruptions
- Student well-being indicators

Expand your analysis

GreatSchools chronic absenteeism dataset can be linked with other GreatSchools datasets to support richer, multidimensional research. Together, these datasets enable researchers and organizations to move beyond attendance alone and explore how school, community, and student factors interact to shape educational outcomes.

Interested in licensing GreatSchools data?

GreatSchools licenses school-level education datasets to researchers, nonprofits, government agencies, foundations, and commercial organizations. To learn more about available datasets, coverage, and licensing options, contact sales@greatschools.org.

Appendix: Data coverage & methodology

Data sources

GreatSchools aggregates, standardizes, and maintains chronic absenteeism data obtained through partnerships with state education agencies and other public data sources. Chronic absenteeism is defined as the percentage of students who miss 10% or more of the school year. The dataset provides school-level reporting and, where available, includes demographic subgroup information and historical trend data.

Methodology notes

The analyses presented in this report are based on the most recent data available from participating states and jurisdictions. Results reflect schools with valid chronic absenteeism reporting for the relevant year. For analytical purposes, inequality-coded values (such as "<2%" or ">95%") are converted to midpoint estimates. Coverage and reporting practices vary by state and year, and users should consider these differences when conducting cross-state comparisons. Additional documentation, data dictionaries, and licensing information are available upon request.

Data coverage

The GreatSchools chronic absenteeism dataset includes school-level attendance data for approximately **73,000 public schools** across **32 states and Washington, D.C.**, representing approximately 91% of active public schools within covered regions. Coverage varies by state, ranging from 39% to 100% of active public schools.

Chronic absenteeism data coverage by state

State	Schools with Data	Active Schools	Coverage	Years Available	State	Schools with Data	Active Schools	Coverage	Years Available
AZ	1,663	2,463	68%	2022-2024	ND	207	581	36%	2018-2024
CA	10,032	10,692	94%	2017-2019 2021-2025	NJ	2,385	2,493	96%	2017-2019 2021-2024
CO	1,849	1,889	98%	2021-2025	NV	701	754	93%	2019 2021-2025
DC	231	256	90%	2024-2025	NY	4,624	4,878	95%	2018-2019 2021-2024
DE	223	230	97%	2017-2019 2021-2025	OH	2,206	3,593	61%	2020-2025
FL	4,119	4,523	91%	2018-2024	OK	1,783	1,803	99%	2018-2019 2022-2025
GA	2,328	2,388	97%	2018-2024	OR	1,303	1,413	92%	2017-2019 2021-2025
IA	1,285	1,312	98%	2024-2025	PA	2,919	2,957	99%	2023-2025
ID	759	830	91%	2021-2025	RI	306	326	94%	2010-2024
IL	3,746	4,375	86%	2018-2025	SC	1,338	1,553	86%	2019-2024
IN	1,869	1,949	96%	2013-2024	SD	499	753	66%	2022-2024
KS	1,338	1,407	95%	2024-2025	TX	8,781	9,361	94%	2020-2024
KY	1,352	1,599	85%	2021 2024-2025	UT	1,025	1,181	87%	2017-2025
LA	1,336	1,386	96%	2019 2021-2025	VA	1,849	2,156	86%	2017-2025
MA	1,782	1,818	98%	2018-2025	WA	2,439	2,549	96%	2017-2025
MI	3,325	3,632	92%	2017-2025	WV	674	782	86%	2018-2025
NC	2,728	2,777	98%	2018-2024	All Regions	73,004	80,659	91%	2010-2025