

EARLY ATTENDANCE INTERVENTION: KINDERGARTEN AND 1ST GRADE

MERCED CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

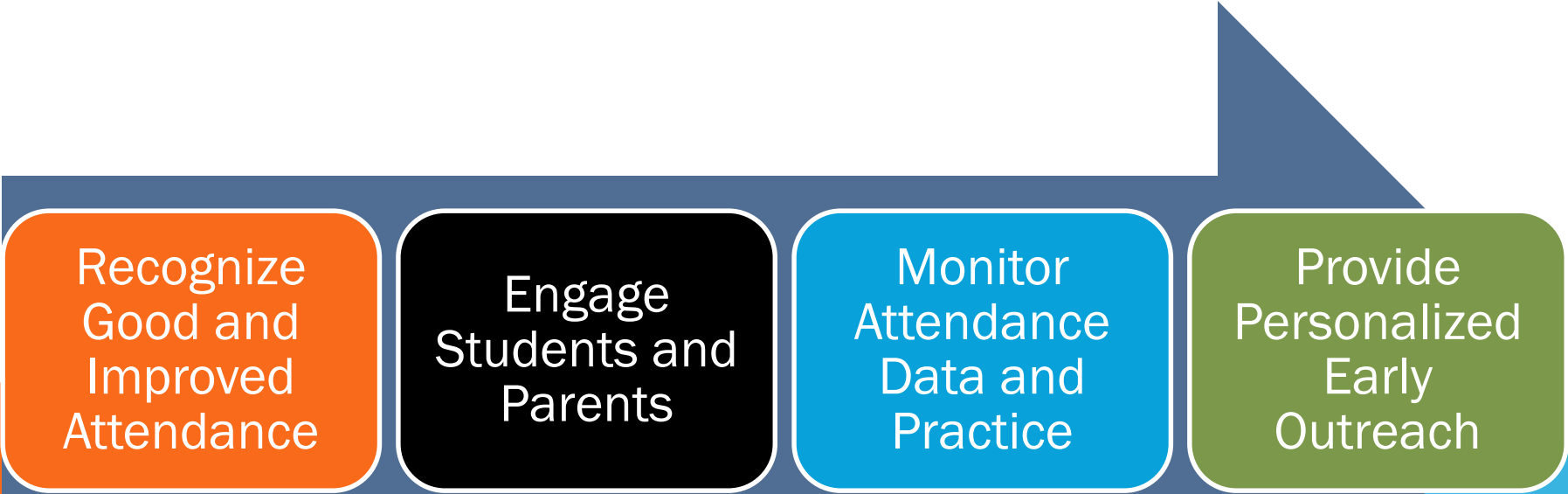
BIG QUESTIONS EVERY PARENT MUST CONFRONT AND ANSWER

Are my actions now leading to my child having reading struggles in third grade?

Are my actions leading my child down a path of low test scores and higher suspension rates as early as 6th grade?

Are my actions or even lack of action as a parent leading to a potential drop out?

MCSD Pupil Services Wants to Help! Goals for MCSD and MCSD Schools:



Recognize
Good and
Improved
Attendance

Engage
Students and
Parents

Monitor
Attendance
Data and
Practice

Provide
Personalized
Early
Outreach

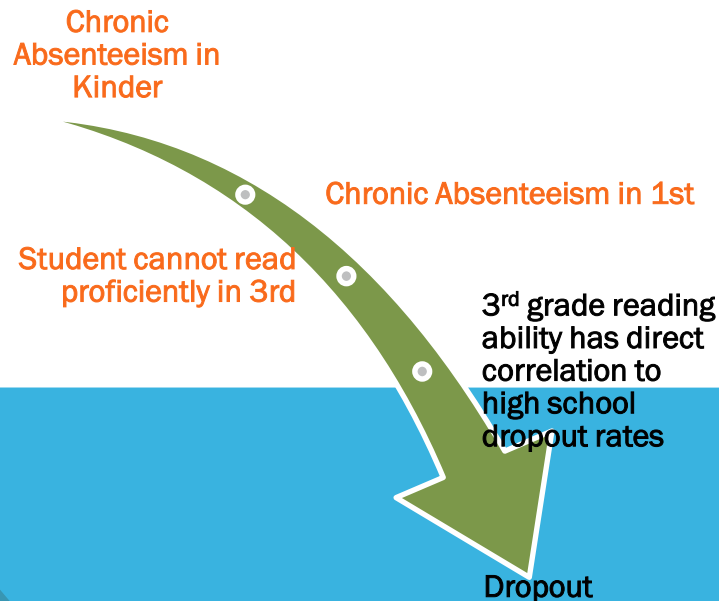
INFORMATION YOU CAN USE

Chronic Absence Definition: Missing 10% or more of school for any reason—excused, unexcused, etc. It is an indication that a student is academically at risk due to missing too much school starting in Kindergarten

Nationwide 10-15% of students miss nearly a month of school every year....135 million days of lost classroom time.

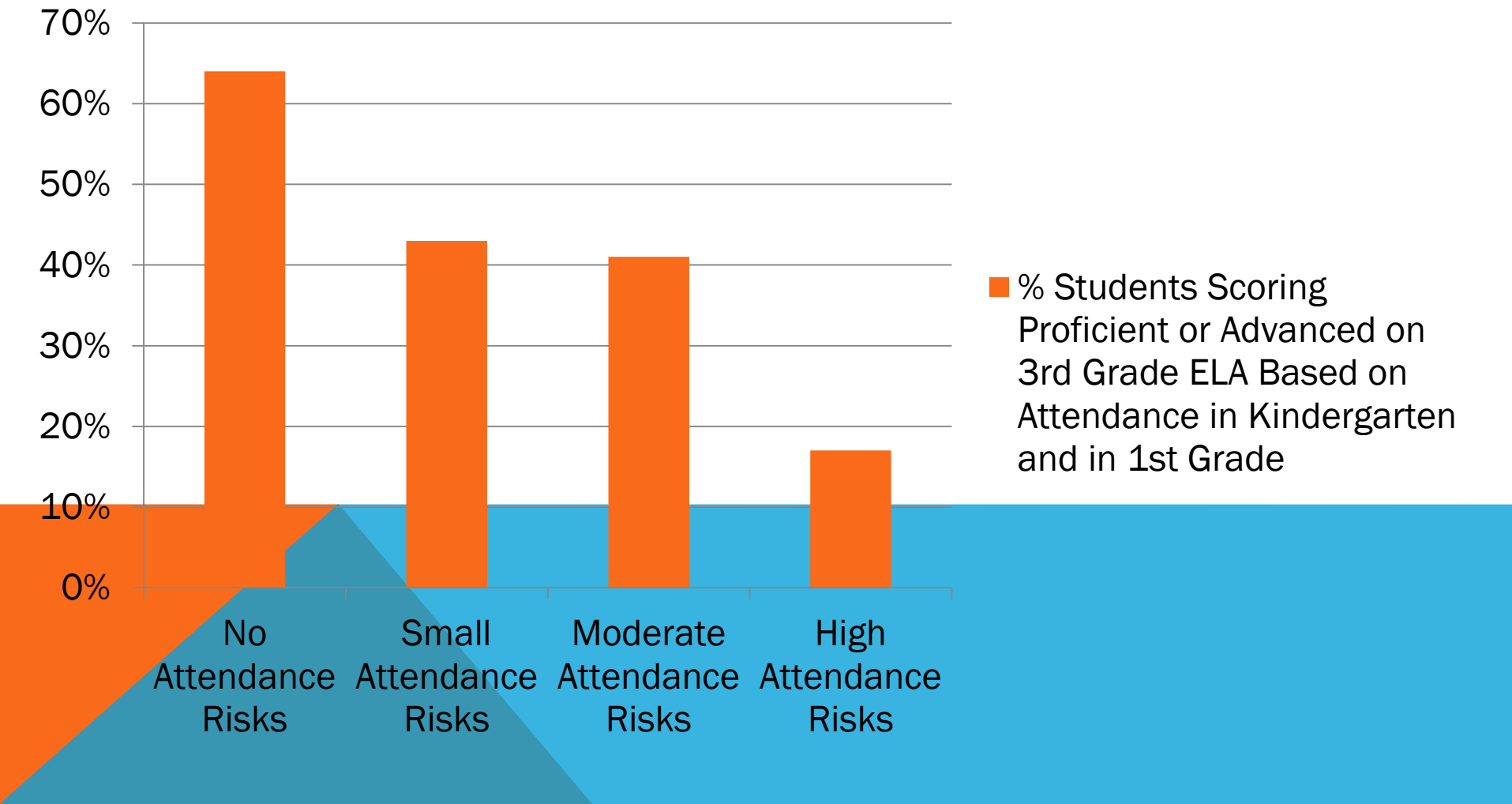
High levels of Average Daily Attendance can mask chronic absence. A school with 90% can have 20-30% chronic absentee problem

MCSD ADA goal is 97%....when a school is at 95% there can still be a major chronic absentee problem. This accounts for several schools in MCSD.



STUDENTS CHRONICALLY ABSENT IN KINDERGARTEN AND FIRST GRADE ARE MUCH LESS LIKELY TO READ PROFICIENTLY IN 3RD GRADE

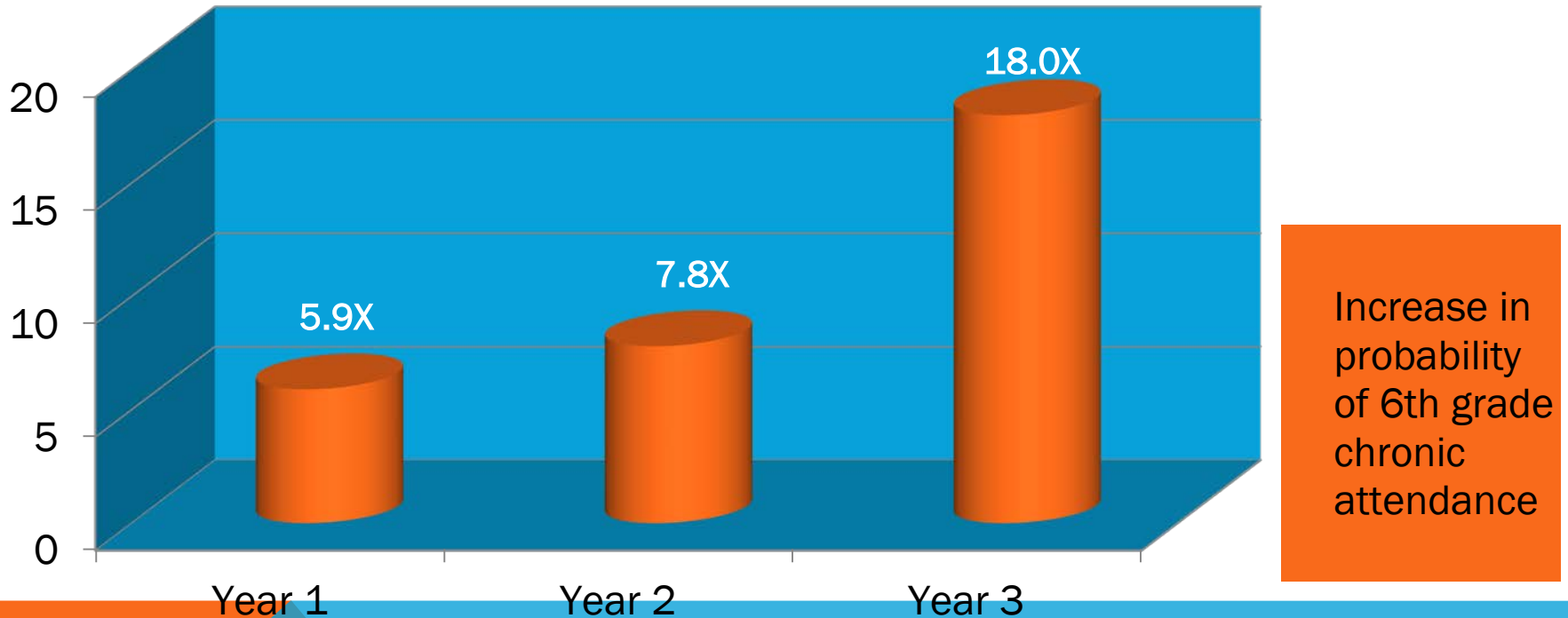
% Students Scoring Proficient or Advanced on 3rd Grade ELA Based on Attendance in Kindergarten and in 1st Grade



MULTIPLE YEARS OF ELEMENTARY CHRONIC ABSENCE=WORSE MIDDLE SCHOOL OUTCOMES

Each year of chronic absence in elementary school is associated with a substantially higher probability of chronic absence in 6th grade

Increase in probability of 6th grade chronic attendance



Chronic absence in 1st grade is also associated with:

- ❖ Lower 6th grade test scores
- ❖ Higher levels of suspension from school

What else happens with poor attendance or chronic tardiness ?

- ✓ If students miss 10% or a few days a month they WILL suffer academically
- ✓ When children come to school late they are often completely missing the morning lesson (ELD and Intervention in MCSD)
- ✓ When kids miss too much school, they are less likely to make friends, bond with teachers or feel comfortable in the classroom setting
- ✓ By allowing them to stay home the problem will become worse not better.

What happens when we have positive attendance?

- ✓ BUT....attending regularly helps children to feel better about schools and themselves
- ✓ Regular on time attendance is a good habit that is learned at a VERY young age!! Preschool, Transitional Kindergarten, Kindergarten—MODEL, MODEL, MODEL!
- ✓ This is a tool for success in the future!
- ✓ Students who are in school every day are less likely to become victims of crime or to commit crime themselves

ADVICE FOR PARENTS AND FAMILIES

- ✓ Set a regular bedtime and morning routine. Put out clothes and pack backpacks the night before.
 - ✓ Set up a homework routine. Check on academic progress and check on them often and encourage meaningful after school activities that will engage them in school. This is especially important as they age.
 - ✓ Plan medical appointments for outside the school day. You are sending the message that school attendance is important and an expectation.
 - ✓ Complaints of a tummy ache or head ache are not good reasons for a child to stay home. Talk to the school personnel about how everyone can make going to school more pleasant.
 - ✓ Develop a back up plan for your children to attend school. (family member, neighbor, friend)
 - ✓ If you need help ask for it but also read and research to learn as much as you can about children and parenting.
 - ✓ Seek out community services that may be free and available to families.
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SUMMARY

- ☐ Routines and boundaries
- ☐ Support your child and the school
- ☐ Communicate well
- ☐ Understand the implications of poor school attendance
- ☐ Set high expectations for your child, moving them to greater and greater independence

Thank you for attending today!!



RESOURCES

First contact your school site administration to discuss the problem

Discover community parenting resources you may be able to participate in

Call MCSD Pupil Services secretary Claudia Salas, 385-6647 or visit the office at 601 Mercy Avenue, Building C4 (off of Dominican Avenue) on the campus of Cruickshank Middle School

Books:

Overindulged Children, A Parents Guide to Mentoring, by Dr. James A. Fogarty.

ISBN #1-893095-21-5

Boundaries with Kids, by Dr. Henry Cloud and Dr. John Townsend.

ISBN #978-0-310-56566-6

How Much is Enough, by Dr. Jean Illsley Clarke, Dr. Connie Dawson and Dr. David J Bredehoft.

ISBN #1-56924-437-5

Online:

www.common sense media.org

www.overindulgence.info

Michigan Department of Education Parent Involvement Study

http://www.michigan.gov/documents/Final_Parent_Involvement_Fact_Sheet_14732_7.pdf

For Middle School Children: Parents Guide to Middle School, Education.com

<http://www.education.com/grade/middle-school/>