



HAWTHORNE PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Chronic Absenteeism
December 10, 2024

What is Chronic Absenteeism?

- **According to the NJDOE, a student is considered chronically absent if the student misses 10 percent or more of the school days in session for which the student was enrolled.**
- **10 percent of the student school year equates to 18 days.**

HPS Chronic Absenteeism By School

| District/School | 2022-2023 Chronic Absenteeism Rate | 2023-2024 Chronic Absenteeism Rate | Percent Change |
|------------------------------------|------------------------------------|------------------------------------|----------------|
| District | 12.0 | 9.2 | 2.8 % decrease |
| Hawthorne High School | 9.3 | 5.2 | 4.1 % decrease |
| Lincoln Middle School | 10.6 | 9.7 | 0.9 % decrease |
| Roosevelt Elementary School | 13.9 | 10.6 | 3.3 % decrease |
| Thomas Jefferson Elementary School | 6.9 | 6.9 | |
| Washington Elementary School | 21.0 | 16.0 | 5.0 % decrease |

The Need for Chronic Absenteeism Corrective Action Plans

New Jersey Statute:

Pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:38-25.1, in the event that **10 percent or more of the students enrolled in a public school are chronically absent**, the school shall develop a corrective action plan to improve absenteeism rates. The corrective action plan shall include, but need not be limited to, the following:

- Identifying problems and barriers to school attendance;
- Developing recommendations to address the problems and barriers to school attendance that have been identified;
- Outlining communication strategies to educate and inform parents on the importance of school attendance;
- Establishing protocols on informing and engaging parents when a child begins to show a pattern of absences; and
- Reviewing school policies to ensure that they support improved school attendance.

Parental Input from Roosevelt

| Total responses | Parents' perceptions regarding the reasons why students are chronically absent | Percent |
|------------------------|---|----------------|
| 88 | Sick/Illness | 95.5 % |
| 88 | Doctor Appointment | 31.8 % |
| 88 | Family Trips / Extended Vacation | 28.4 % |
| 88 | Personal Transportation | 5.7 % |
| 88 | Social Emotional Challenges | 2.3 % |
| 86 | Other - Religious Holidays school is in session | 1.1 % |

Parental Input from Washington

| Total responses | Parents' perceptions regarding the reasons why students are chronically absent | Percent |
|------------------------|---|----------------|
| 40 | Sick / Illness | 90 % |
| 40 | Doctor Appointment | 50 % |
| 40 | Family Trips / Extended Vacation | 22.5 % |
| 40 | Personal Transportation | 10 % |
| 40 | Social Emotional Challenges | 5 % |
| 40 | Other - Religious Holidays school is in session | 2.5 % |

Components of the Chronic Absenteeism CAPs

- School Level Problem Solving Team
- Data- Based Decision Making
 - Parent/caregiver survey & input
- Plan for Sustainability
 - Tier 1 Strategies
 - Tier 2 & 3 Strategies

Tiered Strategies for Roosevelt & Washington Schools

Tier 1

- Morning Meeting
- Automatic call home when absent
- Daily check-ins with homeroom teachers

Tier 2 & 3

- Letters sent home at different absence intervals
- Parent/Caregiver meetings
- Referral to I&RS Committee
- Truancy as per district policy