



**LITTLE EGG HARBOR SCHOOL DISTRICT**

# ADDRESSING CHRONIC ABSENTEEISM IN THE LITTLE EGG HARBOR SCHOOL DISTRICT

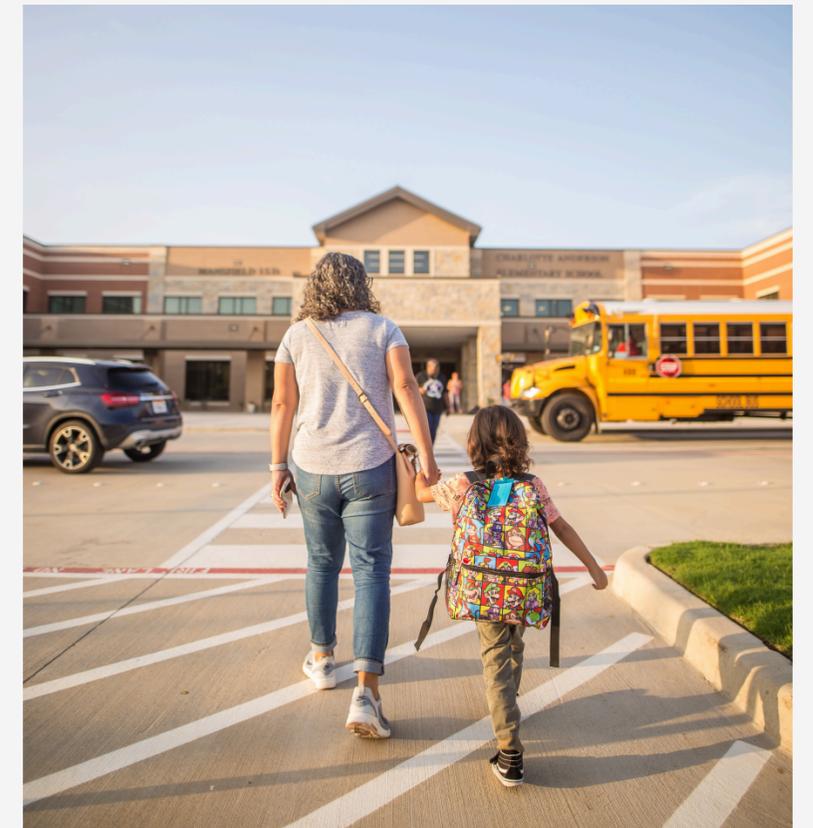
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# WHAT IS CHRONIC ABSENTEEISM?

Chronic absenteeism is defined as missing **10 percent or more days of school for any reason**, including both excused and unexcused absences - can occur when a student misses as few as two days of school per month over the course of a school year.





# SIGNIFICANCE OF LONG-TERM EFFECTS OF CHRONIC ABSENTEEISM



## IMPACT TO READING LEVELS

Kindergarten & First Grade Students who are chronically absent have an 81% chance of reading below grade level in third grade.



## LOWER GRADUATION RATES

Chronic absenteeism is the single strongest predictor of dropping out before graduation.



## HEALTH IMPLICATIONS

Chronic absenteeism is linked to increased suspensions, teen substance abuse and poor health as adults.



# CAUSES OF CHRONIC ABSENTEEISM

Chronic absenteeism can be caused by a number of reasons, but it can be generally broken down into three main categories.

***According to state reporting, students who live in communities with higher levels of poverty are four times more likely to be chronically absent than others.***



Students who **CANNOT ATTEND** school due to illness, family responsibilities, housing instability, the need to work or involvement with the juvenile justice system.



Students who **WILL NOT ATTEND** school to avoid bullying, unsafe conditions, harassment and embarrassment.



Students who **DO NOT ATTEND** school because they, or their parents, do not see the value in being there, they have something else they would rather do, or nothing stops them from skipping school.

# IMPACTS OF CHRONIC ABSENTEEISM IN EARLY SCHOOL YEARS



Chronic absenteeism can start as early as Kindergarten but without addressing it, it can continue to long-term effects on the student's school career and beyond.

**Students who are chronically absent early on are more likely to experience the following in later grades:**

01

LOWER SCHOOL  
READINESS IN MATH,  
LETTER RECOGNITION,  
AND SOCIAL  
EMOTIONAL SKILLS

02

CHALLENGES MEETING  
AND REACHING KEY  
READING MILESTONES

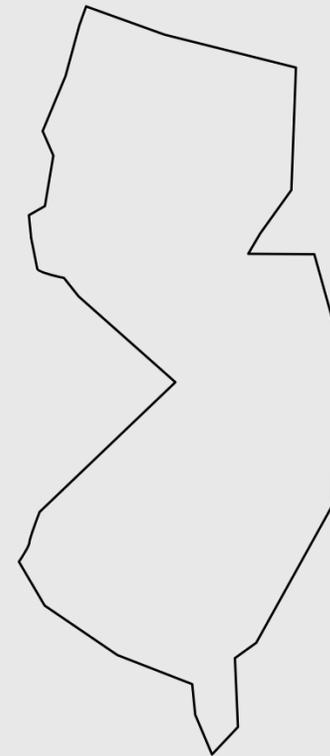
03

CONTINUED  
ATTENDANCE ISSUES  
AND POOR SOCIAL-  
EMOTIONAL  
DEVELOPMENT AND  
BEHAVIOR  
PROBLEMS

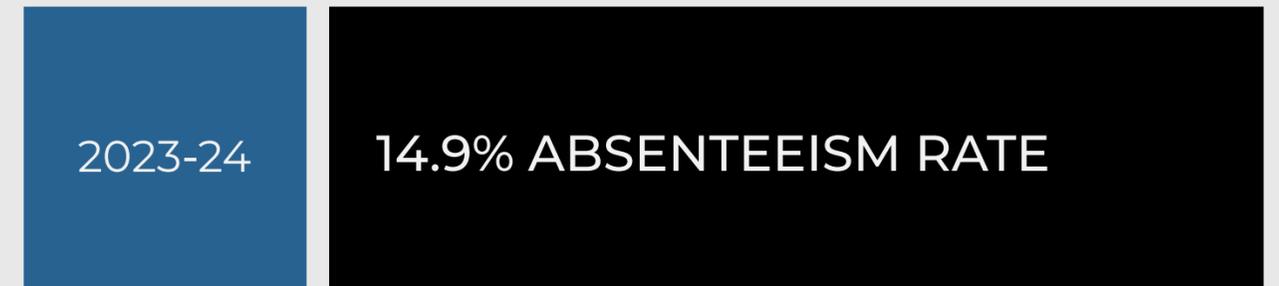
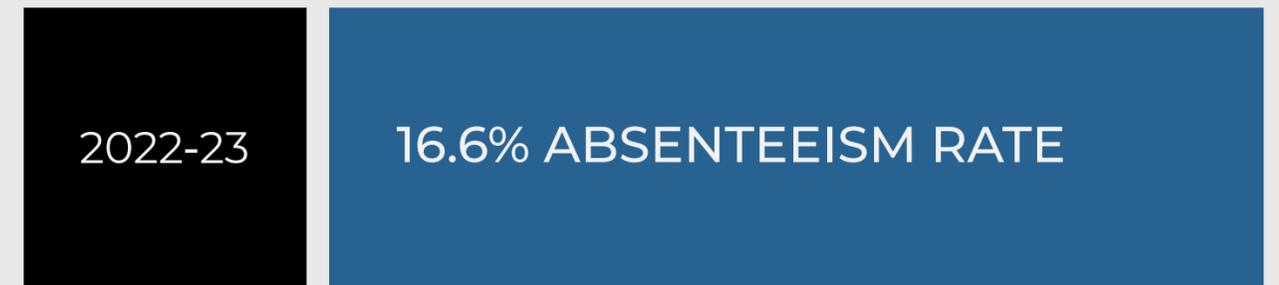
# STATEWIDE STATS ON CHRONIC ABSENTEEISM

Nationally chronic absenteeism has seemed to double since the 2021-22 school year but in New Jersey, we have steadily declined the state average over the years.

In 2022-23, New Jersey had a 16.6% rate in absenteeism. In 2023-24 that rate dropped to 14.9%, which is trending in the right direction, however, it is still up 10.6% from pre-pandemic rates.



## NEW JERSEY ABSENCE STATISTICS



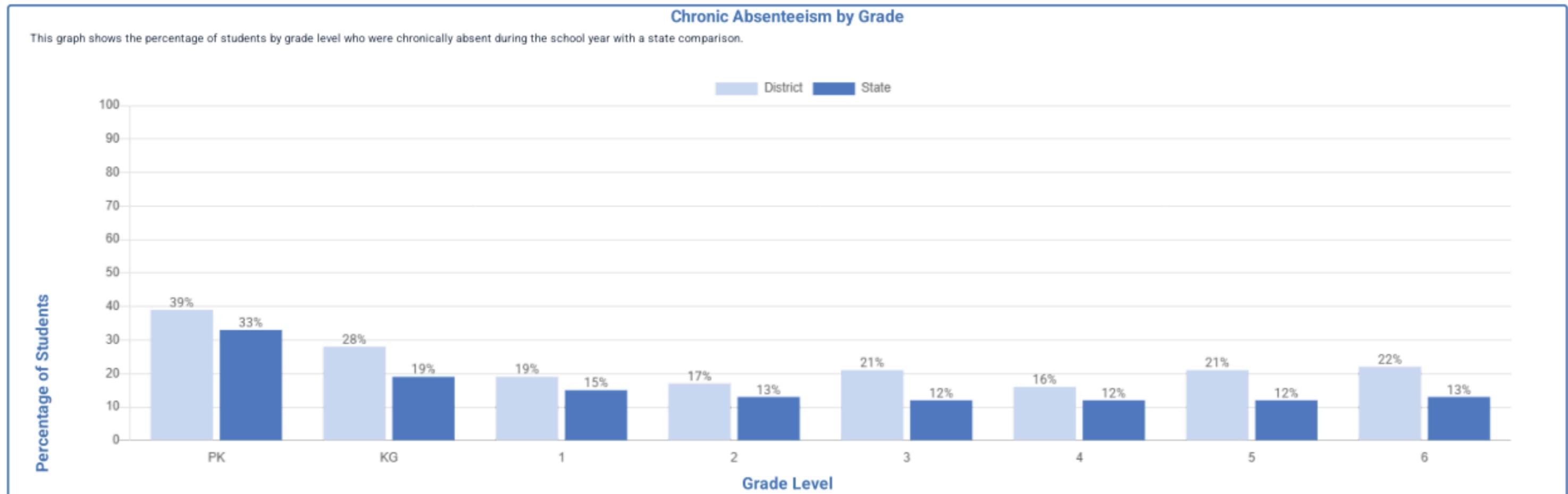
**193,911 STUDENTS CHRONICALLY ABSENT IN NJ IN 2023-2024**

# CHRONIC ABSENTEEISM IN LEHSD



## District Absenteeism versus State Averages for Absenteeism

*228 Students Chronically Absent in 2023-24*

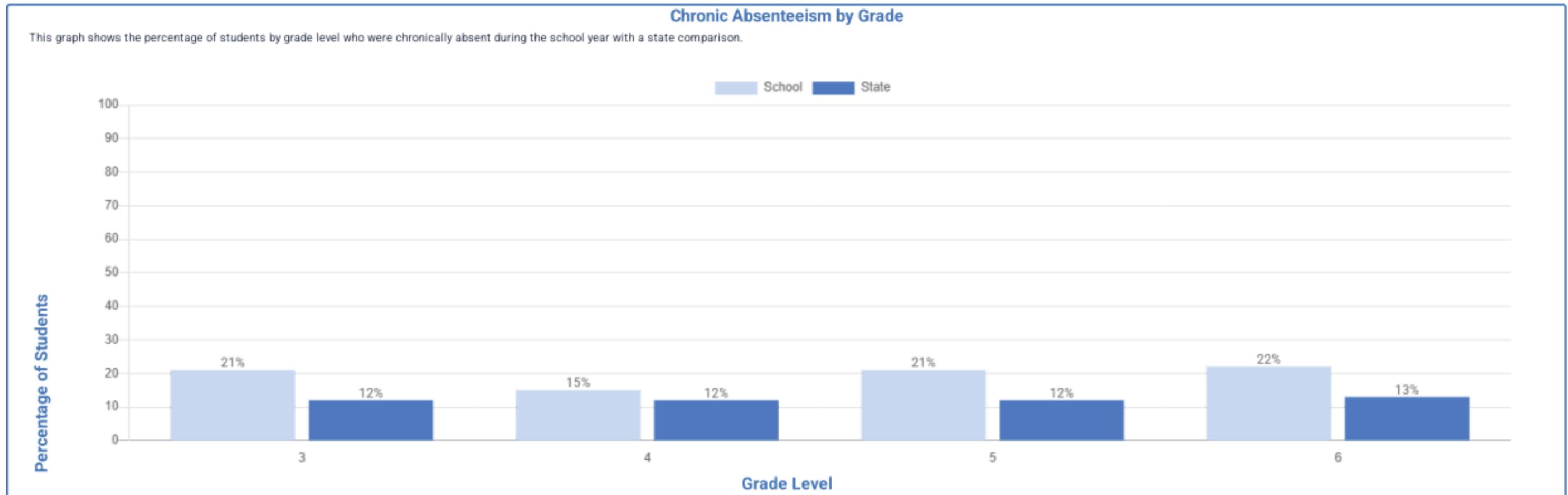


# CHRONIC ABSENTEEISM IN FROG POND ELEMENTARY



## Frog Pond Elementary Absenteeism versus State Averages for Absenteeism

*157 Students Chronically Absent in 2023-24*

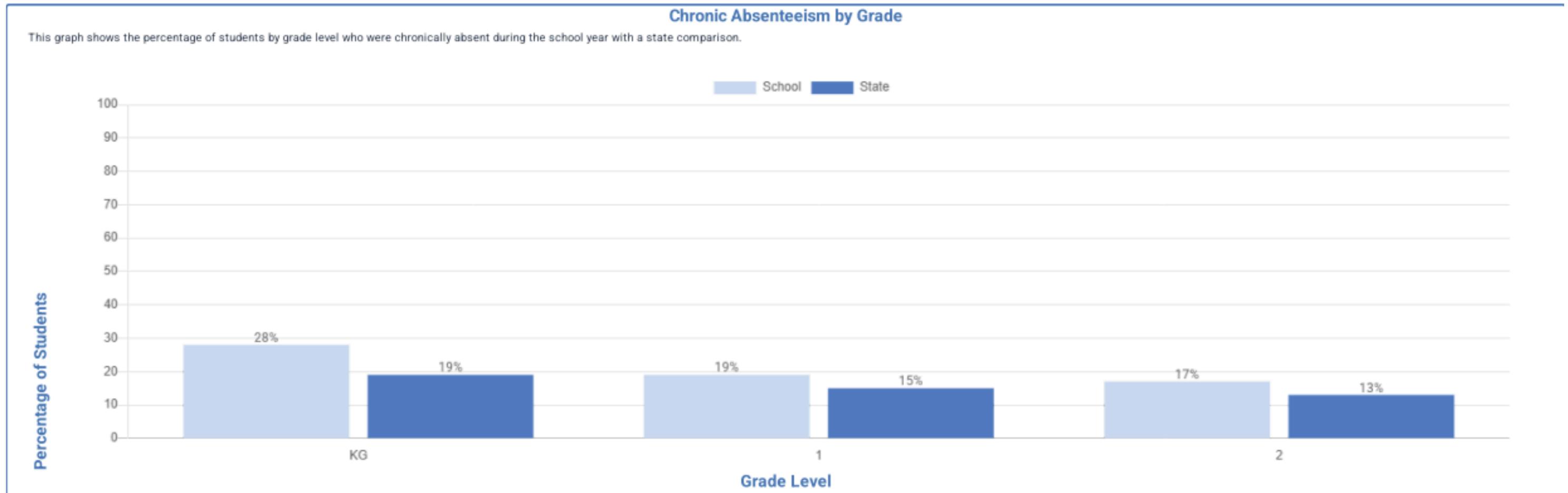


# CHRONIC ABSENTEEISM IN GEORGE J. MITCHELL ELEMENTARY



## George J. Mitchell Elementary Absenteeism versus State Averages for Absenteeism

*127 Students Chronically Absent in 2023-24*



# STRATEGIES TO TACKLE CHRONIC ABSENTEEISM



- Increased monitoring and measuring of student absenteeism
- Data driven development and diagnostic to understand why students' are missing school
- Problem-solving to address the reasons for the student's absence
- Inform and engage with parents/guardians to maintain relationships with students who are experiencing absenteeism.
- Create and develop a plan to work with community groups to promote school attendance
- Recognize and reward/incentivize good attendance throughout the District



# ATTENDANCE IS THE KEY TO **SUCCESS**

Addressing chronic absenteeism requires a collaborative approach involving the schools, families, communities and governments but together we can help give our students the best opportunity to grow academically and socially.



**“YOUR FUTURE BEGINS WITH YOUR  
PRESENCE”**



THANK YOU!

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