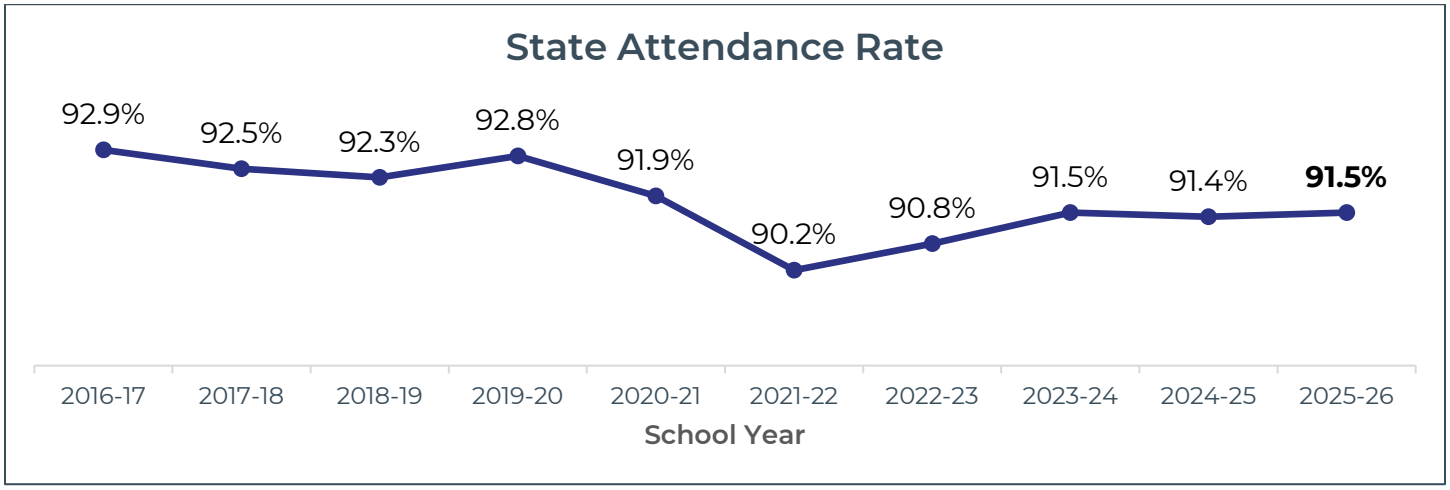
2025-26 Attendance Data Release Summary

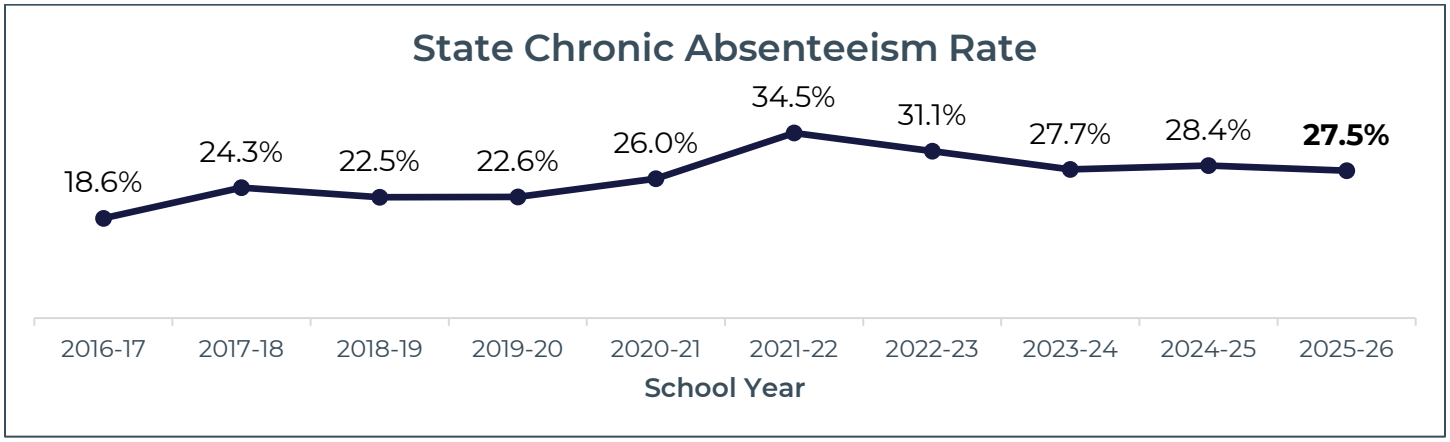
Statewide Improvement

Overall, attendance metrics in 2025-26 improved in comparison to 2024-25 and continued progress since 2021-22.

This included:

- An increase in the attendance rate to 91.5%.
- A decrease in the chronic absenteeism rate from 28.4% to 27.5%. This represents about 11,000 fewer students who were chronically absent.
- More than 60% of districts had steady or improved chronic absenteeism and attendance rates (113 and 124 of the 185 Local Education Agencies or BOCES, respectively).



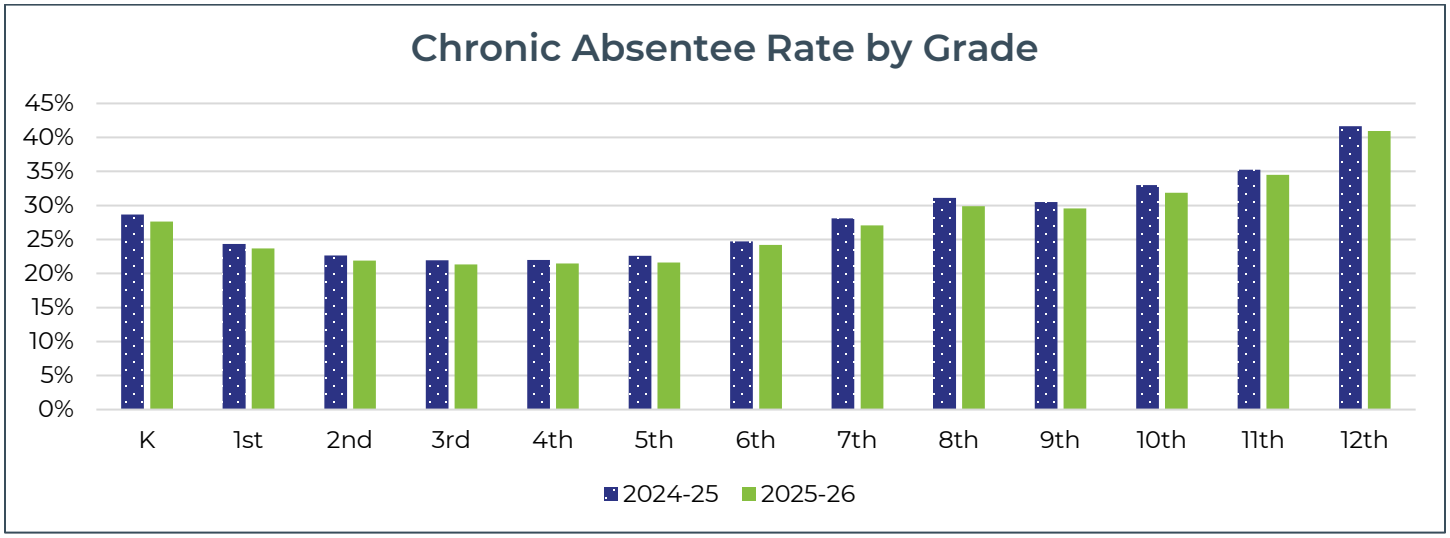


Student groups improved, but there are still gaps across groups

Chronic absenteeism continues to impact a large number of districts, schools, and students with more than 1 out of every 4 Colorado students chronically absent (233,281 students). However, almost all student groups improved in comparison to 2024-25.

This included:

- Every grade level saw improvement in chronic absenteeism.
- Kindergarten, 5th grade, and 7th through 10th grade students had the best improvements, although 30% of 7th through 10th grade students are still chronically absent.

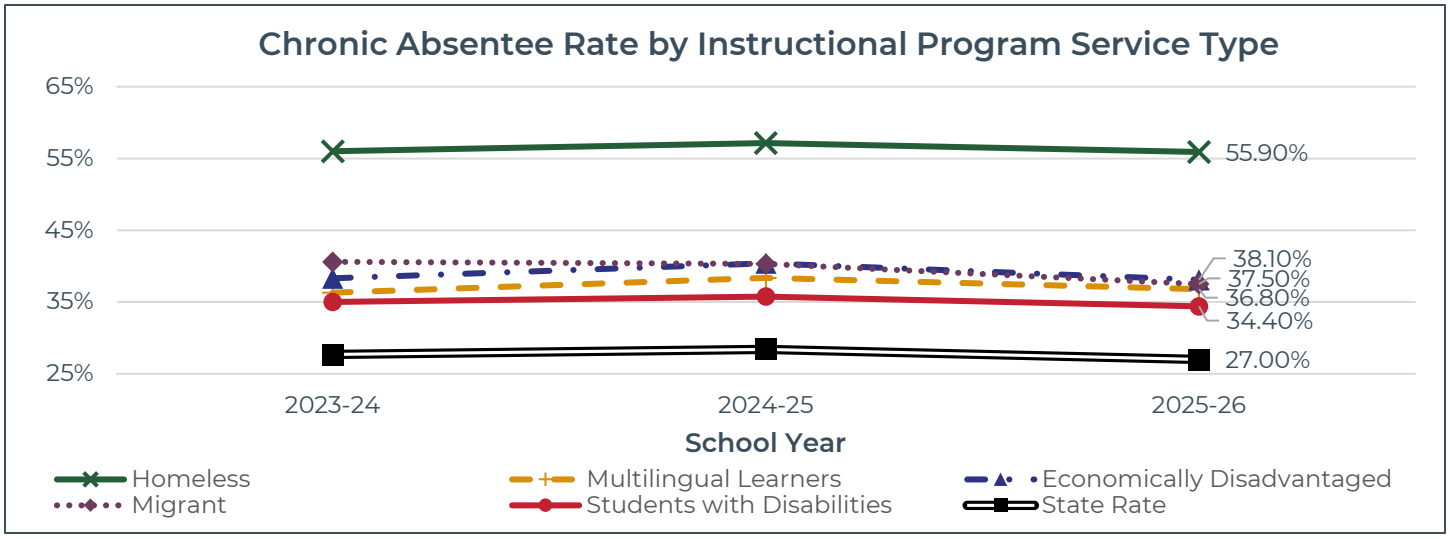


Rates for student groups

Some student groups continue to have higher rates of chronic absenteeism than the statewide average and even with improvements, most gaps remained very similar.

- This included Multilingual learners (37.0%), Students with IEPs (34.9%), Students who qualify for free/reduced price lunch (38.6%), Homeless students (57.5%) and Migrant students (37.9%).

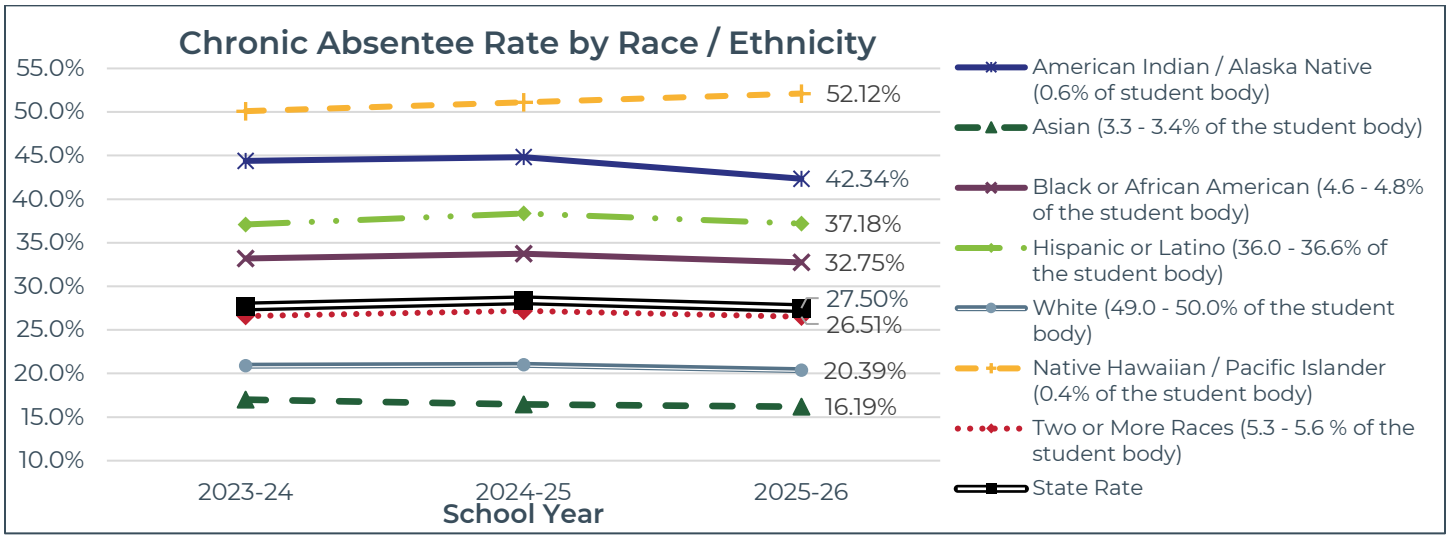
All student groups except Homeless students saw improvements in chronic absenteeism in 2025-26, and Migrant students saw improvements that were over double that of the state (2.4 points).



Rates by student race/ethnicity

Rates of chronic absenteeism decreased in all student groups except among Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander students. Trends include:

- The two groups with the highest rates of chronic absenteeism also have the smallest number of students:
  - American Indian/Alaska Native (5,075 total students – 42.3%) and Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander (3,231 total students – 52.1%).
  - American Indian/Alaska native students saw the largest improvement (2.5 percentage points).
- Black or African American (32.7%) and Hispanic or Latino (37.2%) students were above the state average, but Hispanic or Latino students improved by 1.2 percentage points.
- White students (20.4%), Asian students (16.2%) and students with two or more races (26.5%) were below the state average.



Progress towards the 50% reduction goal

CDE has set a goal to reduce chronic absenteeism by more than 50% from the pandemic high in 2021-22. Although it has been slow, there has been continued progress towards this goal.

- Statewide, there has been a reduction of 7.0 percentage points towards this goal.
- After four years, eighteen districts have reduced their rates by more than 50%.

Definitions

Average Daily Attendance

Number of days attended over number of days enrolled

Chronic Absenteeism

Missing more than 10% of enrolled school days (excused and unexcused)

Truancy

Unexcused absences over number of days enrolled

Resources

- CDE's office of Dropout Prevention and Student Re-engagement has compiled resources on evidence-based practices to improve attendance and promising practices from around the state.
- CDE's Data Services team collects and publishes annual attendance data.