

7 Things to Know About Chronic Absenteeism



What is chronic absenteeism?

Absenteeism is a measure of how many days a student misses school throughout the year. Missing 10% of school days is considered chronically absent.



Why is school attendance important?

Research shows a strong link between school attendance and student performance. When a large percentage of students are chronically absent, it can have an impact on both the absent student as well as their classmates.



Why is Maine tracking chronic absenteeism?

Maine is using chronic absenteeism as one way to measure student progress in schools and to help determine where support is needed in schools across Maine.



What are other states doing?

Maine is one of 36 states using chronic absenteeism, or a similar attendance measure, to measure student and school success.



Where does the data come from?

Beginning with the 2016/2017 school year, [chronic absenteeism data](#) is collected for all public-school students on an annual basis by the Maine Department of Education.



What is counted as an absence?

All absences are counted as an absence, even when you send a note asking for the absence to be excused.



How can schools address chronic absenteeism?

The Maine Department of Education offers [workshops and training](#) to assist schools in developing strategies and increasing awareness around the benefits of attending school regularly.