

Attendance & Enrollment Update:

March 12, 2024

Tonight's Objective

Provide the Board with a comprehensive update on student attendance & enrollment, including a review of last year's challenges, progress made through targeted interventions, and next steps for improvement.



Attendance Processes

- When students are absent from school, their attendance is logged into our student information system as absent (A)
- Attendance is then verified and changed to
 - Excused (E), or Unexcused (U), or another applicable reason code
- Students who accumulate 3 or more absences receive a first notification of truancy.
 - After 3 additional absences, students receive notification for a site level meeting; after meeting is held, and a student is absent 3 or more times, and/or improvement in attendance, an official SARB meeting is held with student and family
- Student Attendance Review Board is held after site level meetings, and site level interventions

Definitions

Chronic Absenteeism:

- When a student misses 10% or more of the school year to date.

Attendance Rate:

- The percentage of students who are present on a given day or over a period of time.

The Connection:

- Attendance Rate is a leading indicator—if daily attendance is low, chronic absenteeism will rise over time.
- Chronic absenteeism reveals patterns of long-term disengagement, often missed when only looking at attendance rate.
- Both must be tracked together to ensure a full picture of student attendance and implement effective interventions early.

Attendance Analysis - A Cycle of Inquiry

The Office of Positive School Climate works with staff and educational partners across the district to cyclically analyze both trends in our attendance data and root causes that align with the trends.

Based on identified root causes, we are able to strategically align our strategy and support.

In 23-24 there were several reported barriers to student attendance which included:

- Economic disparities impacting attendance
- Transportation and supervision challenges
- Student disengagement and lack of motivation
- Students working or taking care of siblings
- Extended family vacations impacting attendance

Attendance Analysis (23-24)

Theory of Action: If we specifically provide outreach and support to students who are chronically absent in addition to our Tier 1 supports, we will support their ability to attend school. By meeting the individual needs of students/families we will be able to reduce our rate of chronic absenteeism which will increase our overall attendance.

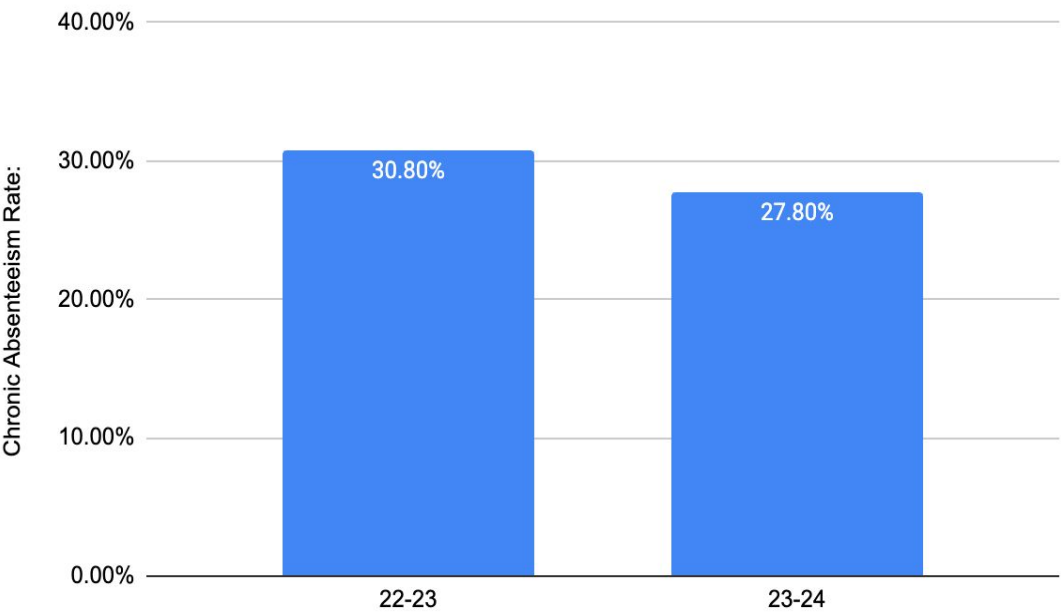
Aligned Actions:

- **New Community-Based Partnerships:** Expanding counseling, parent education, and home-to-school connections.
- **SARB Emergency Response Fund:** Addressing immediate needs like transportation, basic needs, and other barriers.
- **Tier 1 Supports & Campaigns at Sites:** School-based incentive programs to reinforce attendance.
- **Stronger Collaboration with Community Partners:** Engaging mayors, local leaders, and organizations to support families.
- **Facilitated Data and Wrap-Around Supports:** Our team has met with the sites who have the lowest ADA/highest chronic absenteeism to support action planning

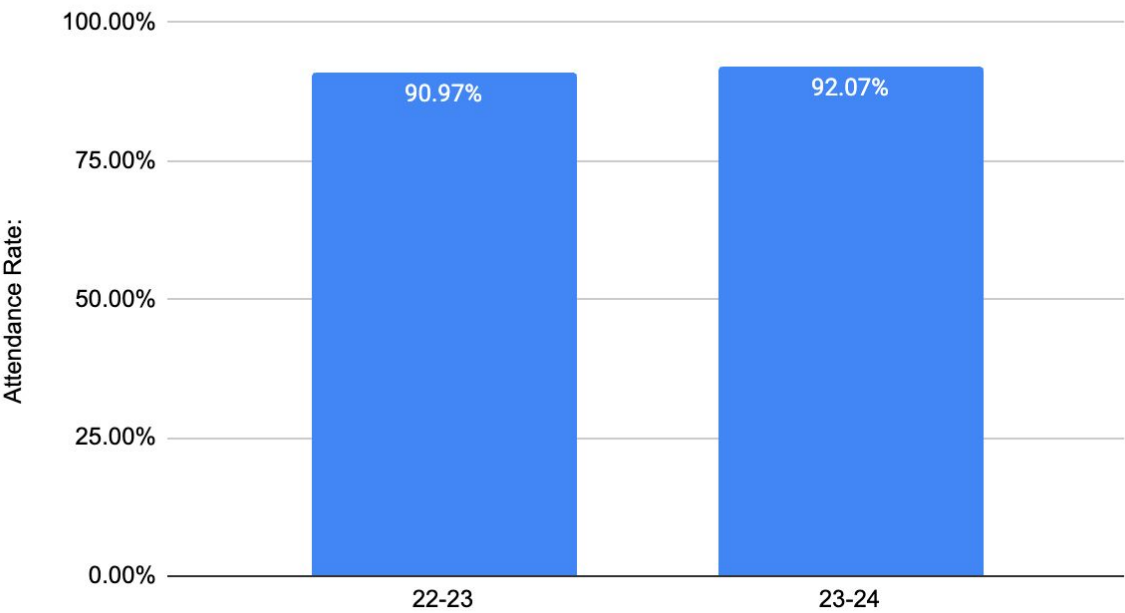
23-24 Attendance Data

By focusing deeply on supporting students who qualified as chronically absent, we were able to reduce the number of chronically absent students and increase our overall attendance.

Chronic Absenteeism Rate



Attendance Rate



Shift in Strategy for 24-25

As of January 2025:

Chronic Absenteeism YTD:
34% → 20%

Attendance Rate YTD:
89.60 Attendance Rate

We have continued to reduce overall chronic absenteeism; however, the group of students who are chronically absent is no longer large enough to create an increase in the overall rate of attendance.

Given this information, we must strengthen our strategy to focus for all students and include school wide universal interventions that support attendance.

Current Barriers to Attendance

Parents were surveyed in February 2025. Our survey was intended to: update root cause analysis from 23-24, understand key challenges preventing student attendance and inform district strategies, improve student attendance. The findings below were trends from the survey AND qualitative data received from our Student Attendance Review Board (SARB) meetings.

Lack of Transportation

- Public transit options may be limited, unreliable, or unsafe for younger students.
- Financial constraints prevent some families from affording private transportation options.

Frequent/Chronic Illness

- Limited access to healthcare or delayed medical treatment exacerbates absenteeism.
- Mental health challenges, including anxiety and depression, contribute to students staying home.

Student Refusal to Attend

- Students who feel disengaged or unsupported in the school environment are less likely to attend.

Parent Work Schedules & Childcare Constraints

- Parents working multiple jobs or irregular shifts may struggle to coordinate school drop-offs and pickups.
- Lack of before- or after-school care creates gaps in supervision, impacting attendance.
- Some students miss school to care for younger siblings or assist with family responsibilities.

Current District Strategies to Address Attendance Barriers

Increase Awareness and Communication



Enhance School Based Supports



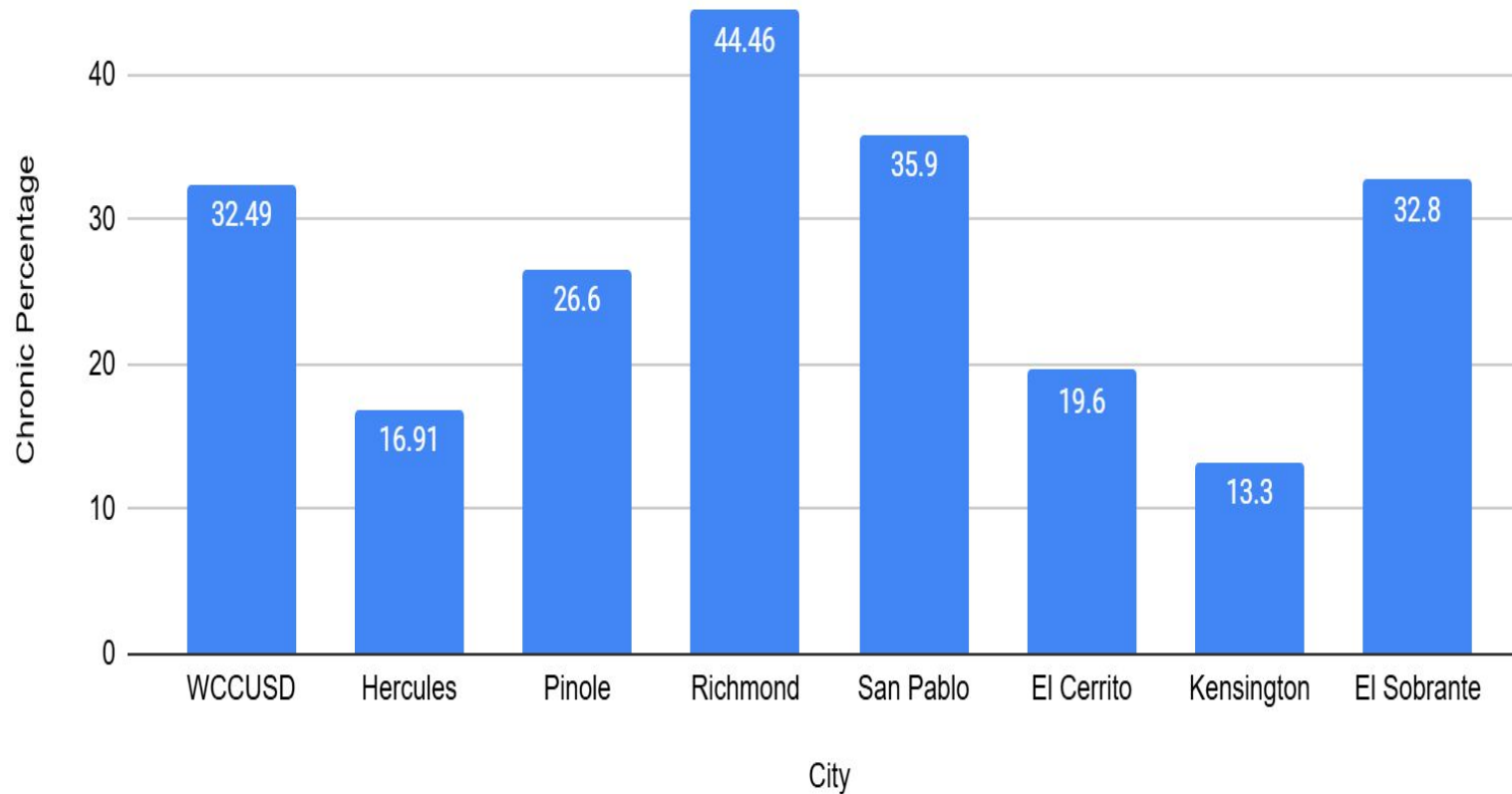
Improve Attendance Incentives and Accountability



Strengthen Partnerships with Families and Community



Chronic Absenteeism by City



Through the Systems Change Collaborative, we are partnering with city leaders, local officials, and community organizations to address barriers to student attendance.

Our focus includes strengthening community-based outreach.

By leveraging city partnerships, we are creating a shared commitment to student success, ensuring that every child has the support they need to show up, rise up, and thrive.

Attendance Trends

We Are Seeing Clear Trends Related to Consistent Attendance, Including:

Patterns of Inconsistent Attendance:

- Mondays and Fridays show higher rates of absences, indicating a trend of extended weekends.
- Post-break absenteeism has increased, with more students missing school immediately after returning from holidays or long weekends.
- January decline in attendance

Encouraging Trends in Attendance:

- Increase in attendance following school-wide engagement efforts, particularly after student and family interventions, and reinforcement strategies.
- Schools implementing tiered interventions and student recognition programs have seen gradual improvements in daily attendance.

Attendance Campaign: Our unified approach to attendance for all

Attendance Campaign- Support Stronger Together: Show Up, Rise Up

Targeted Support for Schools with Lowest ADA

- Met with schools struggling with attendance to analyze data and identify challenges.
- Developed individualized action plans for each school, focusing on Tier 1 universal supports.
- Required **all schools** to implement attendance-focused activities to reinforce positive attendance habits.

District-Wide Tier 1 Attendance Strategies

- Launched attendance toolkit and school-wide messaging to promote daily attendance.
- Emphasized positive reinforcement & recognition for students who improve their attendance.
- Increased family engagement efforts to build stronger connections between school and home.

Ongoing Monitoring & Accountability

- Schools are tracking their attendance trends and making real-time adjustments.
- District Office provides support, coaching, and structured check-ins to ensure consistent implementation.
- Focused on sustainability, ensuring attendance strategies become an integral part of school culture.

Attendance Toolkit

How we are supporting a unified message



- Ready Made School-to-Home Communication Scripts
- Printed Resources
- Action Planning Template for Sites

Attendance Awareness Campaign: *Sample Action Plan*

ADA Improvement Action Plan

What data will be collected to demonstrate progress?

- Weekly attendance data will be collected for students with 85% or less positive daily attendance. These students have been chosen as attendance focus students for this campaign.
- Principal met with the focus students on 2/28 and presented on importance of school attendance including weekly incentive Fridays for a positive attendance earned that week.
- SCOW Martha Nieto contacted each family of focus students the week of 2/24 to inform them of upcoming attendance initiative for their students in March.

Attendance Campaign Theme: Verde

Timeline	What will happen:	Who will lead this:	When will this take place:
Week 1: 03/03/2025 - 03/07/2025	• Contact families of focus students to inform them of attendance initiative. • Announcements emphasizing positive school attendance. • Run daily attendance for focus students. • Celebrate 92% weekly attendance for focus students each Friday in March at 2PM.	Principal, attendance clerk Ms. Martines, SCOW Martha Nieto.	Daily attendance repots for focus students and announcements. Incentive based events each Friday afternoon in March.

All Plans Include:

Clear Actions: Defined steps to improve attendance.

Assigned Leadership: Designated individuals responsible for implementation.

Timelines: Specific deadlines for execution.

Data Monitoring: Each site will track and analyze self-selected attendance data to measure progress.

Community Schools Spotlight: Aligning the Work

Lincoln Elementary

- Front Office intentional relationship building
- Weekly Triage of Chronically Absent Students at CARE Team
- Diversified Outreach
 - ◇ Calls home - teacher and attendance clerk
 - ◇ Playground check ins
 - ◇ Parent check ins at pick up
 - ◇ Texting thru Google
 - ◇ Monthly, quarterly, and annual attendance incentives



Richmond Moves Expansion and SARB Response Fund

- We are collecting data on the availability and demand of *Richmond Moves*
- Will disaggregate by city and share with leaders and Richmond Moves to support expanded access to service
- Through collaboration with Ed Fund, we established an emergency response fund that allows families to access immediate resources to support school attendance.
 - We will continue to collect data to measure impact of efforts

SARB: We want you!

What is the Student Attendance Review Board (SARB)?

- A collaborative team dedicated to identifying and addressing chronic absenteeism.
- Works with students, families, and schools to develop supportive, non-punitive solutions to improve attendance.

Who Can Join?

- Everyone is welcome to be part of the board!
- We are actively recruiting:
 - Community-Based Organizations (CBOs)
 - Mentors & Youth Advocates
 - Community Members & Leaders & Faith Based Organizations
 - Parents & Family Representatives

Why Get Involved?

- Help remove attendance barriers and ensure students receive the support they need.
- Provide mentorship, advocacy, and resources to families navigating attendance challenges.
- Strengthen school-community partnerships to create lasting attendance solutions.

Join us in making a difference—because attendance is a community effort!



Community Schools Spotlight: Aligning the Work

To kick off Attendance Campaign, Lincoln Elementary held a chronic absenteeism town hall, with the goal of:

- Understand needs and root causes to address chronic absenteeism
- Clarify Chronic Absenteeism to support families and students
- Understand system improvement needs



Community Schools Spotlight: Aligning the Work

What we learned.....

- Parent Perception of Student Attendance Review Team Meetings and letters seen as punitive
- Parent concerns about student experience and needs uncovered
- Parents felt heard and supported

Next Steps:

- Support from Climate Coach to enhance student experiences to address concerns
- Empathy Interviews with students and families to understand student experiences at school
- Support from Truancy Techs to address concerns and enhance central systems and support
- Use findings to inform School Site Plans and school based strategy next school year

Who was interviewed?	Thematic Codes (Add as many as needed)							Resources
	Student Safety	Academic Success	Family Support	Enrichment Opportunities	Community Outreach	Diversity & Inclusion	Accountability, Fairness & Consequences	
Student -EL	1							
Student -EL		1						
Student -EL	1							
Student -EL	1							
Student -EL		1	1	1				
Staff - Classified					1			
Staff - Classified							1	

Update on Enrollment

Key Strategies:

- Communication; including programs and new family registration
- Support to school sites with messaging and new family enrollment meetings
- Connection to under-resourced areas to spread messages
 - Work with our housing authority
 - Work with our cities
- Early collaboration with sites to analyze trends around transfer and displacement needs

Stronger Together - Show Up, Rise Up!

What We Have Learned:

- Chronic absenteeism has decreased, but targeted efforts are still needed to improve overall attendance rates.
- Barriers like transportation, chronic illness, student disengagement, and family constraints **continue** to impact attendance.
- Schools with the lowest ADA require customized action plans and consistent monitoring to drive improvement.

Our Strategic Response:

- Shift to strengthen our Universal Tier 1 Approach – Every school has a toolkit to address attendance through clear expectations, family engagement, and proactive interventions.
- Collaboration with City & Community Partners – Aligning school, city, and community efforts to tackle attendance barriers beyond the classroom.
- Strengthening School-Level Accountability – Schools are tracking attendance trends, implementing site-specific strategies, and reinforcing positive attendance habits.

Next Steps for Sustainable Impact:

- Deepen partnerships with families, city leaders, and community organizations to ensure holistic attendance solutions.
- Support school sites with real-time data analysis to refine attendance interventions and adapt strategies as needed.
- Ensure attendance efforts are sustainable by embedding them into school culture, policies, and daily practices.



Questions?