

Compulsory Education, Truancy, and Chronic Absenteeism Follow-Up

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Chronic Absenteeism Impacts Student Achievement

Poor attendance can influence whether children read **proficiently** by the end of **third** grade or be held back.

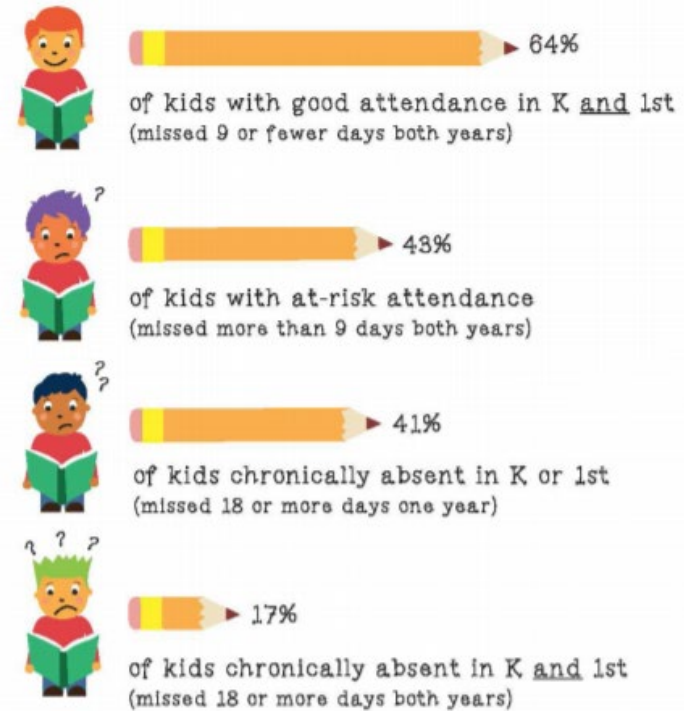
By 6th grade, chronic absence becomes a **leading indicator** that a student will **drop out** of high school.

Why It Matters

If children don't show up for school regularly, they miss out on fundamental reading and math skills and the chance to build a habit of good attendance that will carry them into college and careers.

Preliminary data from a California study found that children who were chronically absent in kindergarten and 1st grade were far less likely to read proficiently at the end of 3rd grade.

Who Can Read on Grade Level After 3rd Grade?³



³ Attendance in Early Elementary Grades: Association with Student Characteristics, School Readiness and Third Grade Outcomes, Applied Survey Research, May 2011.



Identified Need



- State Board Priority
- Lack of consistent definitions
- Consistent and reliable data aides in pinpointing supports needed
- LEA requested guidance regarding truancy

Why



Standardize definitions to allow for **accurate** data across LEAs:

- Chronic absenteeism (currently undefined)
- Modify definition of truant

Reframe consequences and policy requirements by grade level vs. age

How: Draft Bill 2020FL-0494, School Absenteeism and Truancy Amendments

Provide schools and districts with a uniform definition of absences in the context of truancy

Creates the ability to utilize correct data to align resources with identified needs

Provide clarity around which grade level requirements for attendance and truancy requirements apply*

**Currently by age, is not consistent in code, provides confusion*



Legislation Outcomes

- Will not impact Average Daily Membership (Board Rule R277-419)
- Goal is to incentivize student to come to school, not to punish
- Maintains flexibility for LEAs to establish programs and policies
- Consistent and reliable data
- Data will be used to inform practice on absenteeism





Questions

