

**School attendance is a powerful predictor of student outcomes.** Rhode Island defines chronic absenteeism as the percentage of students who miss 10% or more of school days during the year (or two days per month). Attending school every day is even more critical in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic.

## Who is affected?

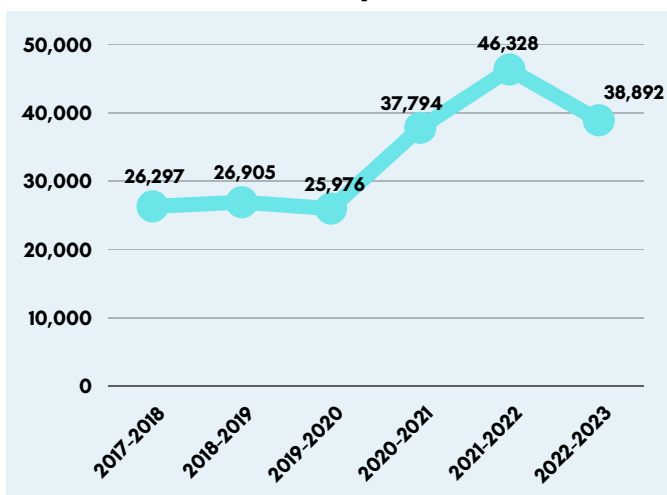
The pandemic critically impacted chronic absenteeism nationwide. In Rhode Island, 28.4% of students were chronically absent during the 2022-2023 school year. That's nearly 3 in 10 children!



## Pandemic impact

While chronic absenteeism improved last school year by 5 percentage points from SY21-22, there is still more work to be done in Rhode Island schools.

**Number of Chronically Absent Students**



## Why does it matter?

Children who are chronically absent in kindergarten and first grade are less likely to read on grade level by the third grade.

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

Students who drop out of school are less likely to succeed in a career. In fact, a high school graduate makes, on average, over a lifetime, \$1 million more than a student who dropped out.

Chronic absenteeism is linked to increased suspensions, teen substance use, as well as poor health as adults.

85% of students who drop out of high school were chronically absent. This can be predicted as early as third grade, based on their early elementary school attendance.

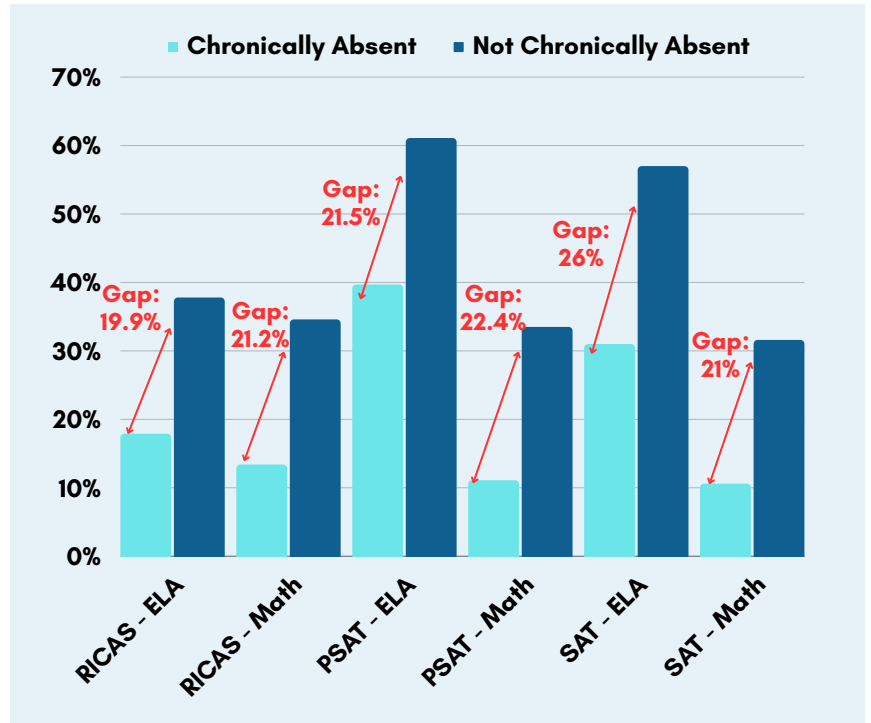
# Learning impact

**Significant performance gaps exist for students who are chronically absent.** Chronically absent students, on average, performed lower than their not chronically absent peers by 19.9%–26% on 2023 assessments.

## How is RIDE addressing this?

- Supporting local education agencies (LEAs) to address student absenteeism through **RIDE's Attendance Nudge tool**, which allows principals to communicate with families when student absences become a concern
- Publishing interactive data tools including **a real-time attendance leaderboard and a community dashboard** detailing chronic absenteeism data and trends
- Establishing **partnerships with municipal leaders, LEAs, and community organizations** that prioritize addressing student chronic absenteeism

## 2023 Percent Proficient: Chronically Absent Students vs. Not Chronically Absent Students



## Did you know...?

In 2023, Commissioner of Elementary and Secondary Education Angélica Infante-Green convened the **Chronic Absenteeism Working Group** made up of a diverse body of stakeholders from education, health, law enforcement, government, business, community organizations, and more. The group will share best practices, raise awareness, and develop strategies to improve student attendance across Rhode Island.

**Join the effort!**

**Reducing chronic absenteeism is an all-hands-on-deck effort. We need you!**

Scan the QR code to explore new and improved data tools, share attendance incentives, and find out how you can help your community reduce chronic absenteeism.

