



RHODE  
ISLAND

## Chronic Absenteeism Working Group Kick-Off

---


November 20, 2023

# Campaign to Reduce Chronic Absenteeism in RI

---

**ATTENDANCE  
MATTERS**

**#COOL2<sup>BE</sup>IN<sup>SCHOOL</sup> RI**



# What is chronic absenteeism?

---

Rhode Island defines chronic absenteeism as the percentage of **students who miss 10% or more of school days** during the year (typically 18 or more days, or two days per month).



# History of Chronic Absenteeism

Rhode Island is the first state to have compulsory education

1840

All U.S. states mandate school attendance

1918

The No Child Left Behind Act mandates truancy reporting

2002

Every Student Succeeds Act shifts focus to chronic absenteeism

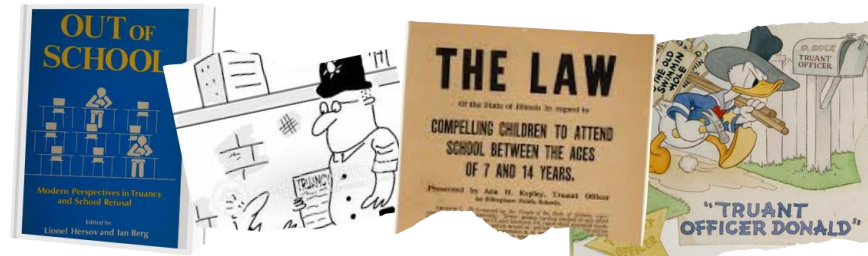
2015

Global health crisis causes chronic absenteeism to soar

2020

#AttendanceMattersRI campaign promotes whole-state approach to reducing chronic absenteeism

PRESENT

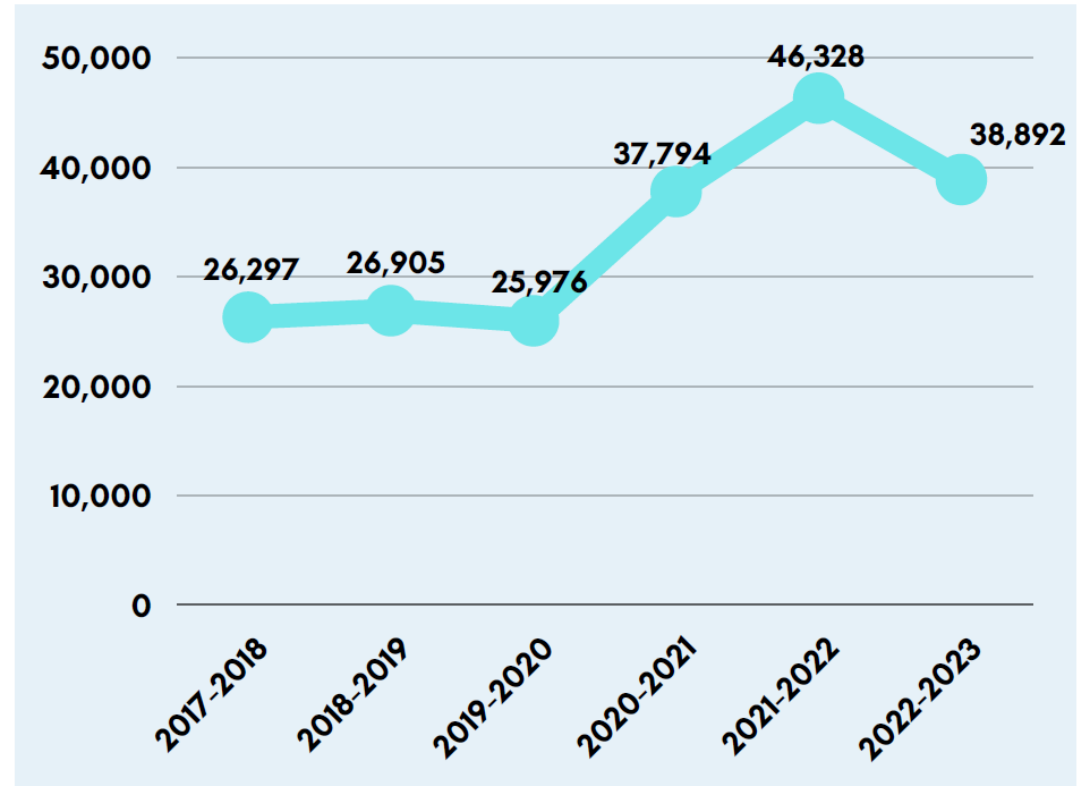


# Pandemic Impact in Rhode Island

## Changes in Chronic Absenteeism Rate in RI

- 25% increase from SY 18-19 to SY 21-22
- 5% decrease from SY 21-22 to SY 22-23

### Number of Chronically Absent Students

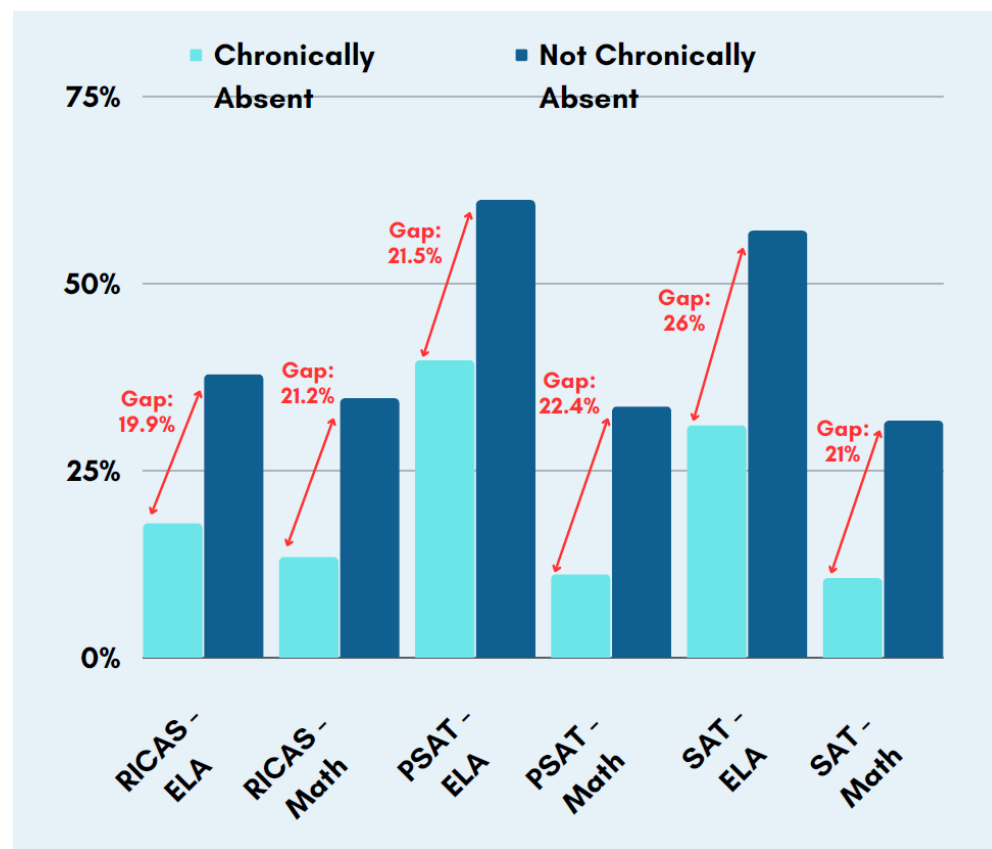


# Learning Impact of Chronic Absenteeism

**Significant performance gaps exist in ELA and math for students who are chronically absent.**

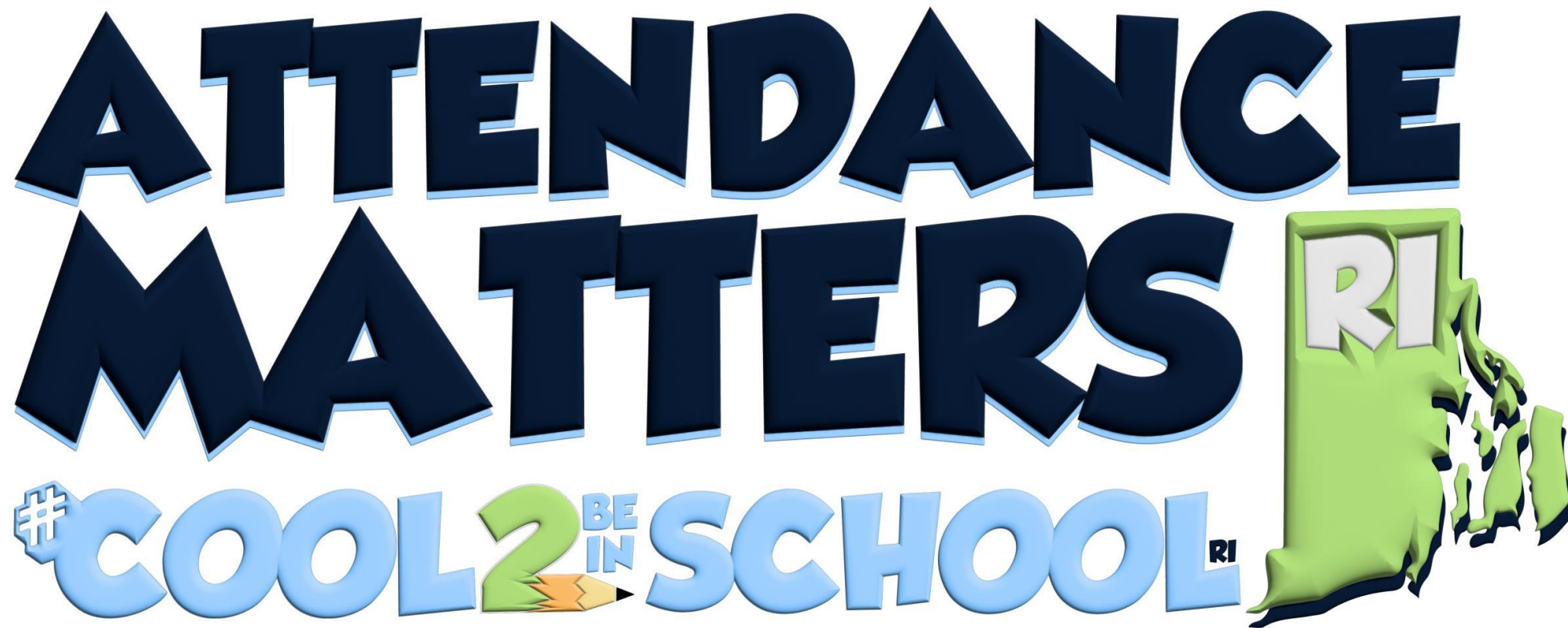
Chronically absent students, on average, performed lower than their not chronically absent peers by 19.9% - 26% on 2023 assessments.

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



# Charge of Chronic Absenteeism Working Group

---



# Agenda

1. Introductions
2. Briefing on the current state of chronic absenteeism in RI
3. Discussion
4. Next steps





# Who is in the room?

---

Please introduce yourself:

1. Name
2. Organization
3. Rhode Island alma mater, if applicable

See your packet for the full list of members and other resources.



# Root Causes of Chronic Absenteeism

---

Absence reasons typically fall into four broad categories: **barriers to attendance, aversion to school, disengagement from school, and misconceptions about the impact of absences.**

Barriers

Aversion

Disengagement

Misconceptions



**Attendance  
Works**

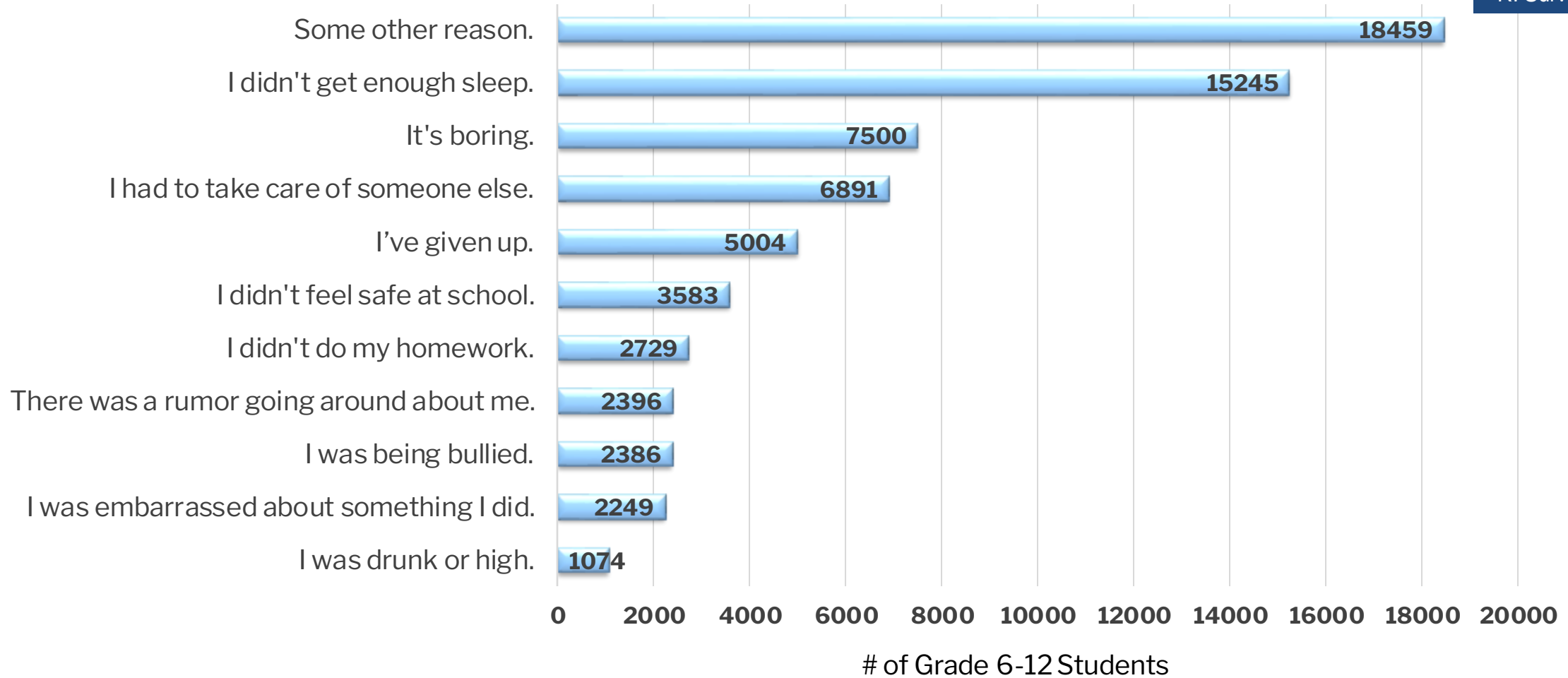
Advancing Student Success By Reducing Chronic Absence

# Aversion: Student Challenges



RI SurveyWorks 2023

## Why were you absent from school?



# Aversion: Other Reasons Reported



RI SurveyWorks 2023

## "Student Perspectives on Chronic Absenteeism"

- Inclement weather
- Lack of consequences from parents and caregivers
- "Checked out" feeling

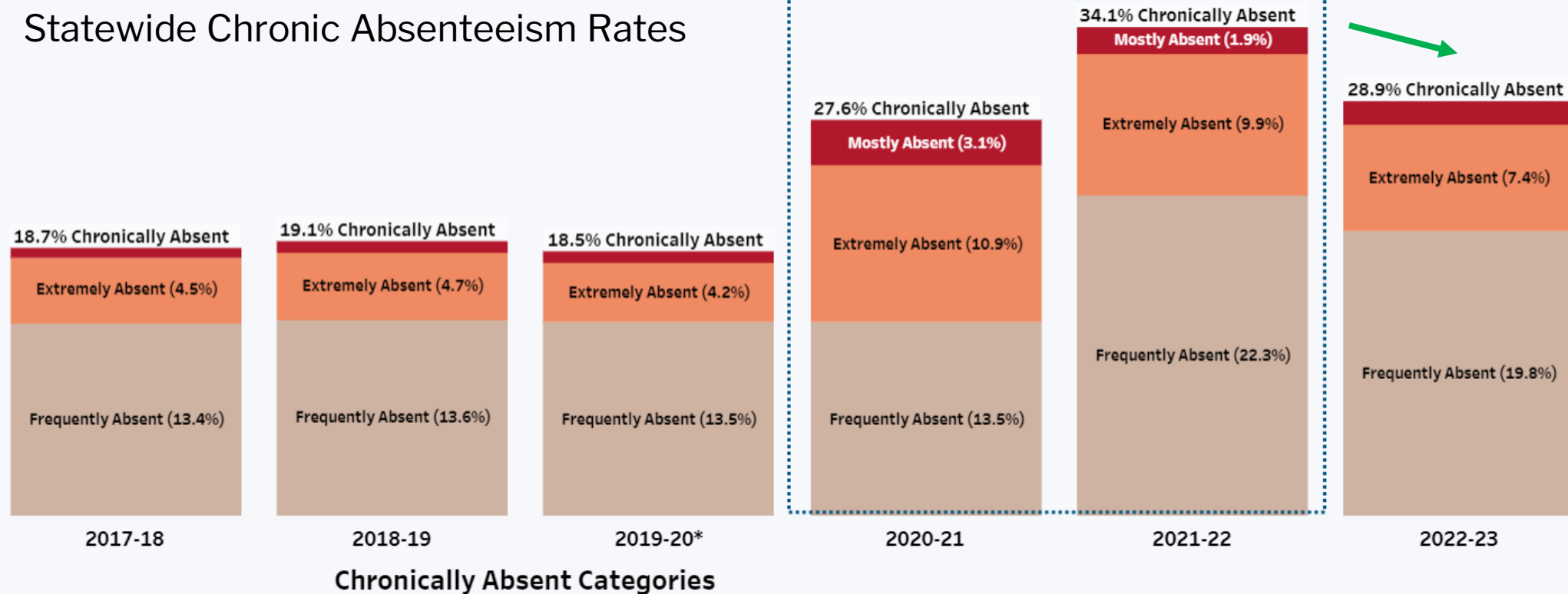
RIDE focus group with 30 students on Zoom



"Other" as reported by grades 6-12 students on SurveyWorks

# Aversion: Academic, Behavioral, and Social Climate

## Statewide Chronic Absenteeism Rates



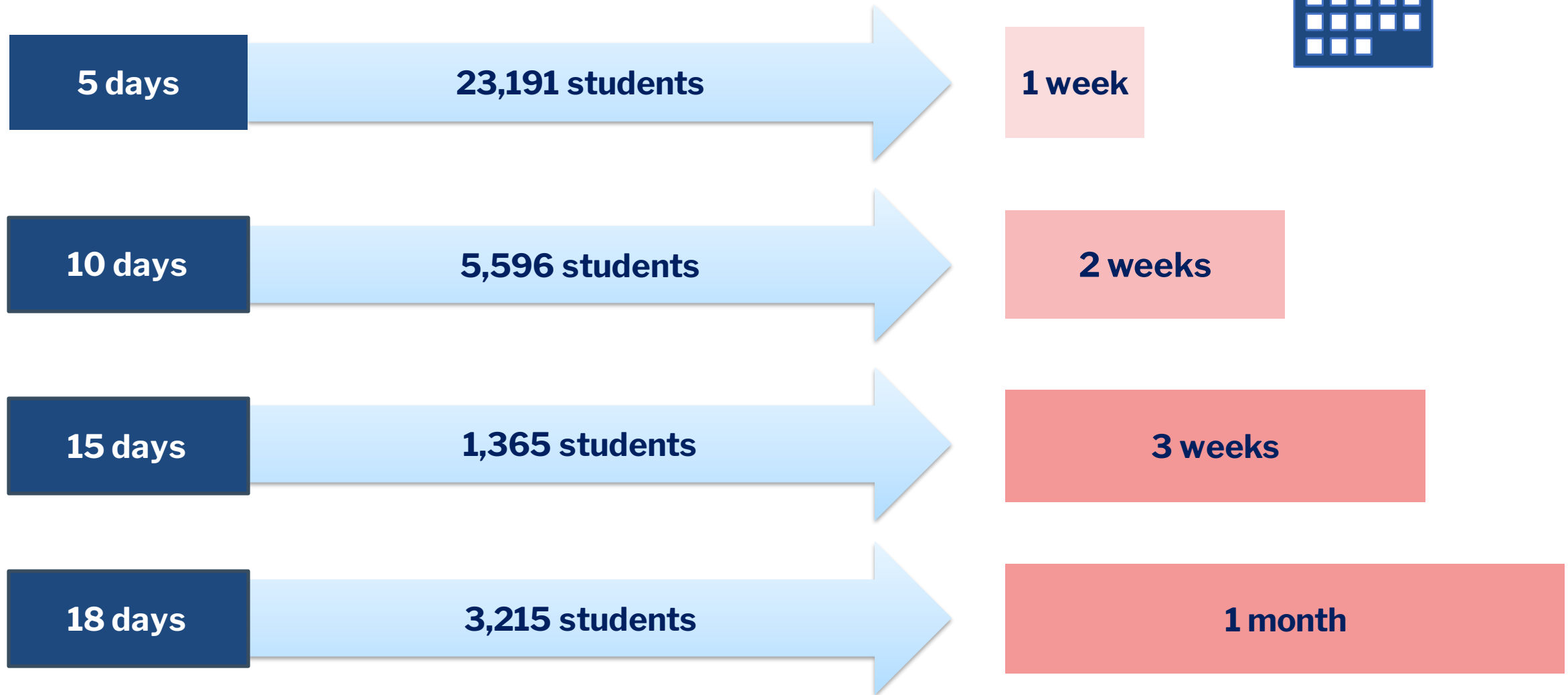
RIDE Data Tool

**2,190 students** (1.6%) were absent more than 50% of school days in 2022-23.

- Frequently Absent** ➤ Absent between 10% and 20% of school days (between 18 and 36 days)
- Extremely Absent** ➤ Absent between 20% and 50% of school days (between 37 and 90 days)
- Mostly Absent** ➤ Absent more than 50% of school days (more than 90 days)

\* 2019-20 calculations use March data, all other years use end of year data.

# SY 23-24: Absences as of Today

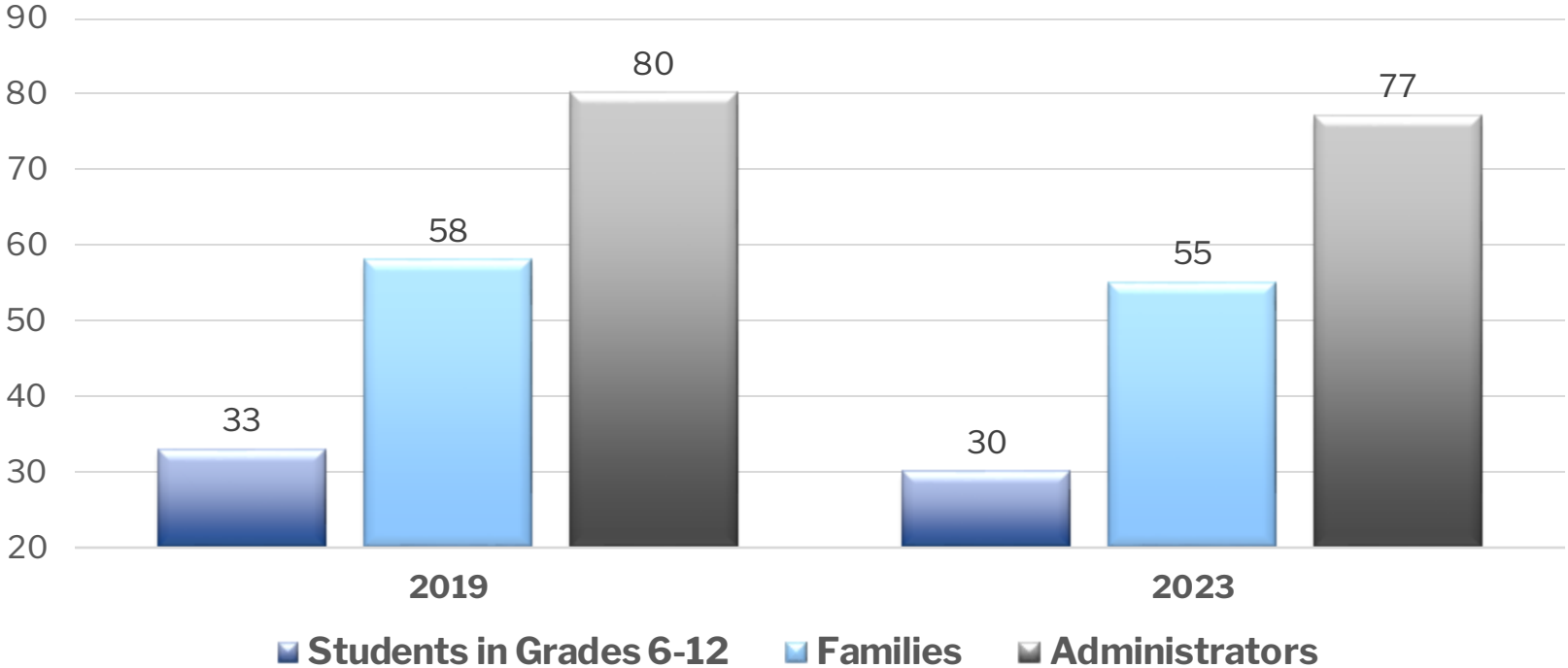


# Misconceptions: Impact on K-12 Outcomes



RI SurveyWorks 2023

### How much do you think missing 2 days of school a month impacts a student's chance of graduating high school?



The percentage of students, families, and administrators who answered favorably:

- Not at all
- A little bit
- Somewhat
- Quite a bit
- A tremendous amount

# Misconceptions: Problem Primarily in Upper Grades



RIDE Data Tool

RICAS ELA			2023	RICAS MATH		
Absence Rate Categories	Meeting/Exceeding Expectations	Not Meeting/Partially Meeting Expectations		Absence Rate Categories	Meeting/Exceeding Expectations	Not Meeting/Partially Meeting Expectations
Chronically Absent	18.0%	82.0%		Chronically Absent	13.4%	86.6%

Performance of Chronically Absent Students	RICAS ELA		RICAS Math	
	Meeting/Exceeding Expectations	Not Meeting/Partially Meeting Expectations	Meeting/Exceeding Expectations	Not Meeting/Partially Meeting Expectations
Grades 3-5	21.6%	78.4%	17.9%	82.1%
Grades 6-8	15.2%	84.8%	9.9%	90.1%



# Discussion



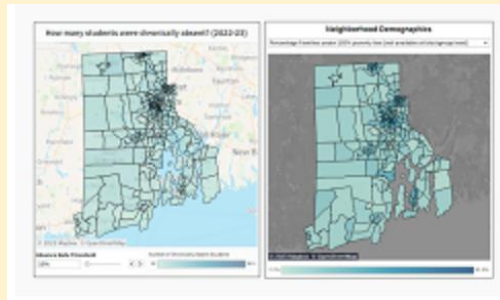
What did we just hear?

From your vantage point, what can you do?

# How is RIDE supporting schools?



Supporting 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 several 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.

# RIDE Data Tools: Upcoming Webinars to Learn More

Student Attendance Leaderboard

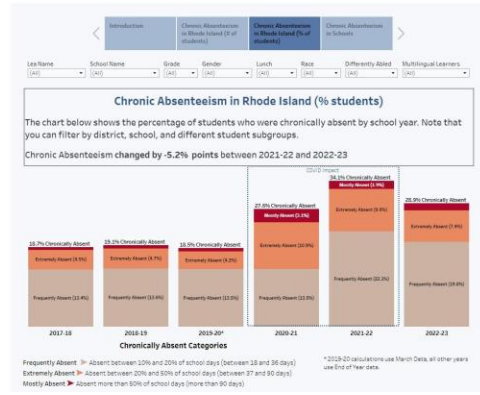
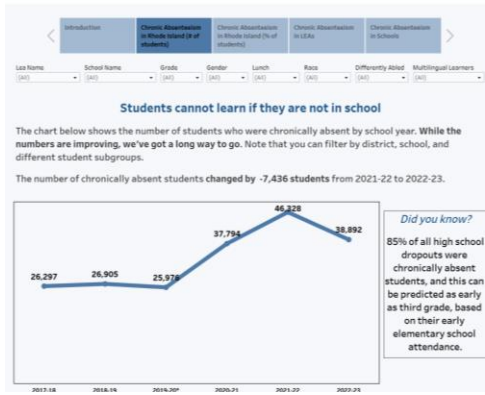
- December 6, 3:00pm-4:00pm
- December 11, 10:00am-11:00am

**Chronic Absenteeism in RI (Number of Students)**

**Chronic Absenteeism in RI (Percent of Students)**

**Chronic Absenteeism in LEAs**

**Chronic Absenteeism in Schools**



LEA Name	2013-18	2014-19	2015-20*	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23
Achievement First Rhode Island	1.7%	1.7%	4.7%	42.0%	46.1%	46.1%
Barrington	1.2%	1.8%	8.0%	1.3%	5.0%	5.0%
Beacon Charter School	7.8%	4.2%	12.4%	2.0%	18.8%	22.5%
Blackstone Academy	23.0%	20.0%	25.0%	58.0%	56.0%	46.7%
Blackstone Valley Prep, A & W Maynard Academy	8.8%	8.4%	9.4%	23.7%	16.7%	22.4%
Bristol Warren	15.5%	17.0%	16.0%	23.1%	15.8%	14.5%
Burrillville	22.0%	23.7%	13.1%	26.0%	23.7%	23.7%
Central Falls	23.7%	23.0%	23.0%	49.0%	49.0%	29.4%
Charter Charter	60.2%	52.0%	52.0%	67.0%	67.0%	55.0%
Charlton	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Cranston	15.0%	15.7%	12.0%	15.0%	22.0%	20.7%
Cumberland	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	13.7%	14.0%	19.0%
Davies Career and Tech	17.0%	14.0%	10.0%	43.0%	40.0%	33.0%
DCU	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
East Greenwich	1.0%	6.0%	7.0%	4.0%	14.0%	13.7%
East Providence	19.5%	18.0%	15.0%	24.2%	24.2%	27.4%
Easton Academy Rhode Island	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	10.0%	10.0%	10.0%
Easton-Island Greenwich	0.0%	0.2%	0.7%	7.0%	26.5%	32.2%
Effingham	4.2%	7.0%	8.0%	6.2%	10.0%	10.0%
Effingham Charter	10.0%	10.0%	13.0%	17.0%	17.0%	16.5%
Flower Hill	4.7%	4.7%	5.3%	3.7%	10.0%	1.0%
Highlander	27.0%	20.0%	16.0%	22.0%	22.0%	40.0%
International Charter	11.0%	10.0%	12.0%	13.0%	16.0%	16.7%
Jonestown	1.0%	0.4%	4.0%	1.7%	8.7%	8.7%
Lincoln	20.0%	10.0%	17.0%	20.0%	20.0%	20.0%

LEA Name	School Name	2013-18	2014-19	2015-20*	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23
Achievement First Rhode Island	Achievement First Elementary	1.0%	1.0%	3.0%	35.0%	38.0%	38.0%
	Achievement First Junior Maynard Academy	1.0%	1.0%	3.0%	25.0%	28.0%	28.0%
	Achievement First Providence Elementary	1.0%	1.0%	3.0%	25.0%	28.0%	28.0%
	Achievement First Providence High School	1.0%	1.0%	3.0%	25.0%	28.0%	28.0%
Barrington	Achievement First Providence Maynard Academy	1.0%	1.0%	3.0%	25.0%	28.0%	28.0%
	A & W Maynard Academy	1.0%	1.0%	3.0%	25.0%	28.0%	28.0%
	Achievement First Providence Maynard Academy	1.0%	1.0%	3.0%	25.0%	28.0%	28.0%
	Achievement First Providence Maynard Academy	1.0%	1.0%	3.0%	25.0%	28.0%	28.0%
Beacon Charter School	Beacon Charter School	7.8%	4.2%	12.4%	2.0%	18.8%	22.5%
	Beacon Charter School	7.8%	4.2%	12.4%	2.0%	18.8%	22.5%
	Beacon Charter School	7.8%	4.2%	12.4%	2.0%	18.8%	22.5%
	Beacon Charter School	7.8%	4.2%	12.4%	2.0%	18.8%	22.5%
Blackstone Academy	Blackstone Academy Charter School	23.0%	20.0%	25.0%	58.0%	56.0%	46.7%
	Blackstone Academy Charter School	23.0%	20.0%	25.0%	58.0%	56.0%	46.7%
	Blackstone Academy Charter School	23.0%	20.0%	25.0%	58.0%	56.0%	46.7%
	Blackstone Academy Charter School	23.0%	20.0%	25.0%	58.0%	56.0%	46.7%

# Commit to Attendance Matters

---



1. Spread the word whenever and however you can.
2. Incorporate Attendance Matters into your work.
3. Sponsor/support a school.



# 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.*



#ATTENDANCEMATTERSRI

#COOL2BEINSCHOOLRI



[WWW.RIDE.RI.GOV/ATTENDANCEMATTERSRI](http://WWW.RIDE.RI.GOV/ATTENDANCEMATTERSRI)

