

Chronic Absenteeism: A major barrier to learning

Atlantic County, New Jersey



Statewide, more than 125,000 NJ students are chronically absent each year. Regular attendance is essential to school success. Chronic absence—missing excessive amounts of school for any reason—can cause students to fall behind academically.

Students who are chronically absent in kindergarten and first grade are less likely to read proficiently by the time they finish third grade.

Children with certain risk factors—including poverty, homelessness and chronic illness—are both more likely to be chronically absent and especially hard hit because they often lack the resources to make up for the lost opportunities to learn in the classroom. An important step in reducing chronic absence is to build awareness and help understand what it is, how it affects students and identify ways to ensure children attend school.

The chart below shows school districts with a chronic absenteeism rate of 10 percent or higher in Atlantic County during the 2013-2014 school year.



School Districts with 10 Percent or More of their Students Chronically Absent (2013-14)

School District	Percent of K-3rd Graders Chronically Absent	Percent of 11th & 12th Graders Chronically Absent	Percent of Total K-12 Students Chronically Absent	Total # of K-12 Students Chronically Absent
Atlantic City	18	37	21	1,452
Buena Regional	14	22	17	314
Charter Tech High School	n/a	36	30	96
Egg Harbor City	18	n/a	18	79
Greater Egg Harbor Regional	n/a	22	18	622
Hamilton Township	10	n/a	11	343
Hammonton Town	6	17	11	396
Mainland Regional	n/a	21	15	206
Margate City	14	n/a	15	66
Pleasantville City	17	44	20	670
Port Republic City	9	n/a	12	15
Somers Point City	13	n/a	13	127
TOTAL: 12 DISTRICTS				4,386

Note: N/A means that the school district does not serve children in those grades.

Source: New Jersey Department of Education

Giving Every Child A Chance