

Chronic Absenteeism: A major barrier to learning

Burlington 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 Burlington 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
Beverly City	15	n/a	13	31
Burlington City	11	13	13	201
Burlington County Vocational	n/a	25	18	359
Florence Township	10	15	11	167
Lenape Regional	n/a	16	13	878
Mount Holly Township	12	n/a	14	128
North Hanover Township	13	n/a	11	121
Palmyra Boro	7	25	13	123
Pemberton Township	15	24	18	781
Renaissance Regional Leadership Charter School	15	n/a	13	21
Riverside Township	15	21	15	201
Willingboro Township	16	47	23	821
Woodland Township	15	n/a	14	20
TOTAL: 13 DISTRICTS				3,852

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

Source: New Jersey Department of Education