

Chronic Absenteeism: A major barrier to learning

Camden 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 Camden 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
Audubon Boro	7	18	10	155
Berlin Township	11	n/a	10	60
Black Horse Pike Regional	n/a	17	15	585
Camden Academy Charter High School	n/a	24	19	80
Camden City	22	47	29	3,013
Camden County Vocational	n/a	20	17	354
Clementon Boro	12	n/a	15	62
Collingswood Boro	5	19	11	206
D.U.E. Season Charter School	19	n/a	18	71
Eastern Camden County	n/a	25	17	351
Gloucester City	7	18	11	199
Haddon Heights Boro*	4	28	17	213
Lawnside Boro	16	n/a	19	50
Leap Academy University Charter	18	19	15	192
Lindenwold Boro	8	15	10	245
Pennsauken Township	9	23	13	633
Pine Hill Boro	10	18	12	216
Woodlynne Boro	17	n/a	15	58
TOTAL: 18 DISTRICTS				6,743

*K-3rd grade data comes directly from Haddon Heights Boro School District.

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

Source: New Jersey Department of Education

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