

Chronic Absenteeism: A major barrier to learning

Monmouth 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 Monmouth County during the 2013-2014 school year.

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

School District	Percentage of K-3rd Graders Chronically Absent	Percentage of 11th and 12th Graders Chronically Absent	Percentage of Total K-12 Students Chronically Absent	Total # of K-12 Students Chronically Absent
Academy Charter High School	n/a	44	41	77
Asbury Park City	18	44	25	452
Belmar Boro	14	n/a	11	55
Farmingdale Boro	7	n/a	10	15
Freehold Regional	n/a	25	18	1,979
Highlands Boro	14	n/a	14	23
Keansburg Boro	23	34	25	327
Keyport Boro	11	25	14	145
Long Branch City	21	23	20	918
Monmouth Co Vocational	n/a	16	13	360
Monmouth Regional	n/a	16	13	118
Neptune Township	10	35	18	704
Roosevelt Boro	13	n/a	11	9
Rumson-Fair Haven Reg	n/a	18	11	100
Union Beach	10	n/a	10	63
TOTAL: 15 DISTRICTS				5,345

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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