

# Chronic Absenteeism: A major barrier to learning

## Ocean 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 Ocean 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 K-12 Total Students Chronically Absent	Total # of K-12 Students Chronically Absent
Barnegat Township	11	31	17	532
Beach Haven Boro	19	n/a	14	8
Berkeley Township	10	n/a	11	229
Brick Township	9	19	12	1,079
Eagleswood Township	9	n/a	14	18
Jackson Township	7	21	12	1,025
Lacey Township	12	27	18	788
Lakehurst Boro	15	n/a	10	38
Lakewood Township	16	43	19	1,028
Lavallette Boro	13	n/a	12	16
Little Egg Harbor Township	10	n/a	12	159
Long Beach Island	10	n/a	12	25
Manchester Township	10	8	10	301
Ocean County Vocational	n/a	16	14	296
Ocean Gate Boro	17	n/a	16	21
Ocean Township	17	n/a	16	79
Point Pleasant Beach Boro	12	31	16	125
Seaside Heights Boro	38	n/a	37	69
Toms River Regional	7	27	14	2,197
<b>TOTAL: 19 DISTRICTS</b>				<b>8,033</b>

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