

# Chronic Absenteeism: A major barrier to learning

## Passaic 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 Passaic 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
Clifton City	8	28	13	1,381
Community Charter School Of Paterson	18	n/a	18	127
John P Holland Charter School	16	n/a	18	34
Passaic Co Manchester Regional	n/a	22	17	154
Passaic Valley Regional	n/a	17	13	176
Paterson City	17	38	21	4,907
Paterson Charter School For Sci/Tech	24	27	16	167
Wayne Township	5	33	13	1,067
Woodland Park	10	n/a	10	116
<b>TOTAL: 9 DISTRICTS</b>				<b>8,129</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