

Chronic Absenteeism:

A major barrier to learning

Statewide Fact Sheet



Statewide, nearly 129,000 NJ students were chronically absent in the 2015-16 school 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 more likely to be chronically absent. Districts with relatively low overall rates of chronic absenteeism may nonetheless have pockets of high absenteeism in one or more specific student populations. For more information on high absenteeism districts by county, check out acnj.org for county fact sheets.



Chronic Absenteeism in Grades K-12 by County (2015-16)

County	Total Enrolled Students	Chronically Absent Students	Percentage of Students Chronically Absent
Atlantic	42,748	5,466	12.8
Bergen	132,113	8,234	6.2
Burlington	67,537	6,009	8.9
Camden	78,729	9,961	12.7
Cape May	11,739	1,447	12.3
Cumberland	25,450	4,058	15.9
Essex	129,849	18,098	13.9
Gloucester	46,290	3,756	8.1
Hudson	82,870	8,676	10.5
Hunterdon	19,617	784	4.0
Mercer	58,526	7,241	12.4
Middlesex	121,844	9,860	8.1
Monmouth	96,386	8,522	8.8
Morris	75,645	3,907	5.2
Ocean	68,648	8,436	12.3
Passaic	81,499	8,416	10.3
Salem	10,301	1,110	10.8
Somerset	52,695	2,772	5.3
Sussex	20,758	2,229	10.7
Union	90,754	8,503	9.4
Warren	16,311	1,180	7.2
STATEWIDE	1,330,309	128,665	9.7

Source: New Jersey Department of Education

Giving Every Child A Chance

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