

Uniting Schools & Families to Get Students Back Into the Attendance Habit,

Co-Sponsored by Learning Heroes and Attendance Works

December 3, 2024



Panelists



Emily Bailard
Chief Executive
Officer
EveryDay Labs



Hedy Chang
Executive Director
Attendance Works

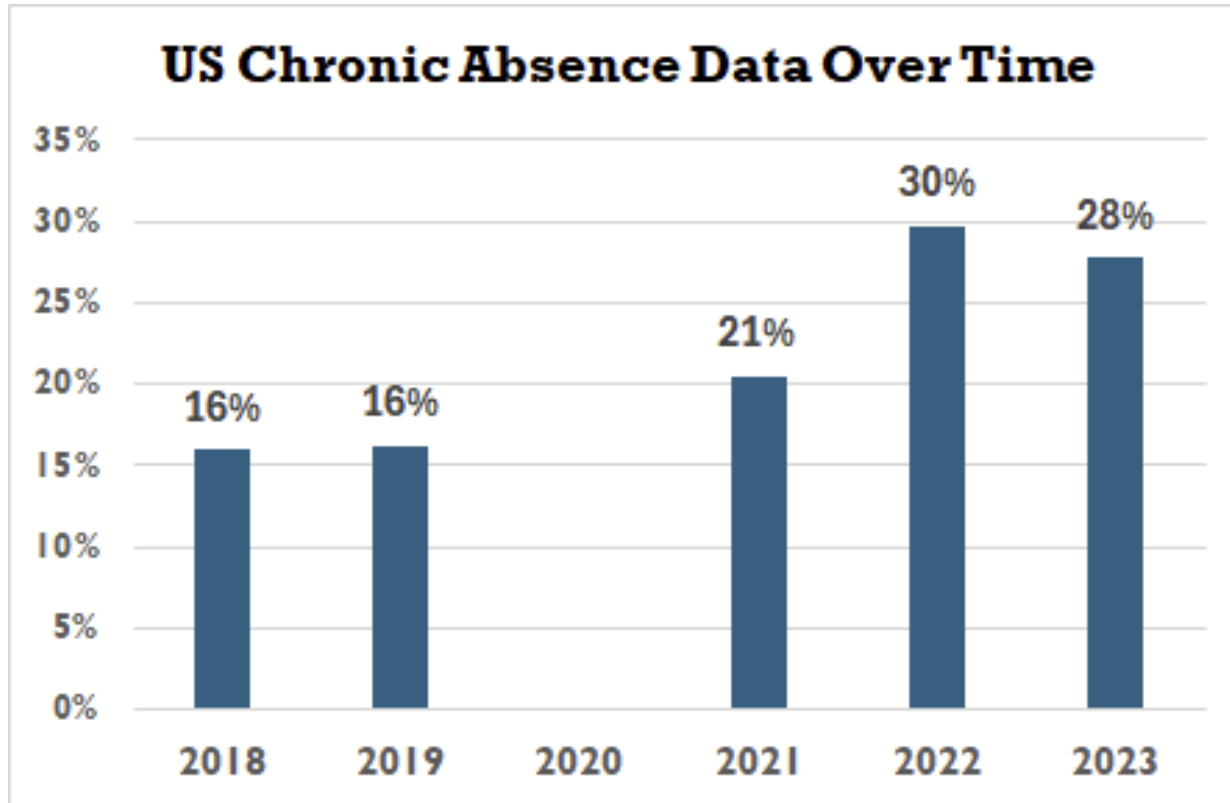


Shadae Harris, Ph.D.
President and CEO
Groundwork
Consulting



Bibb Hubbard
Founder and
President
Learning Heroes

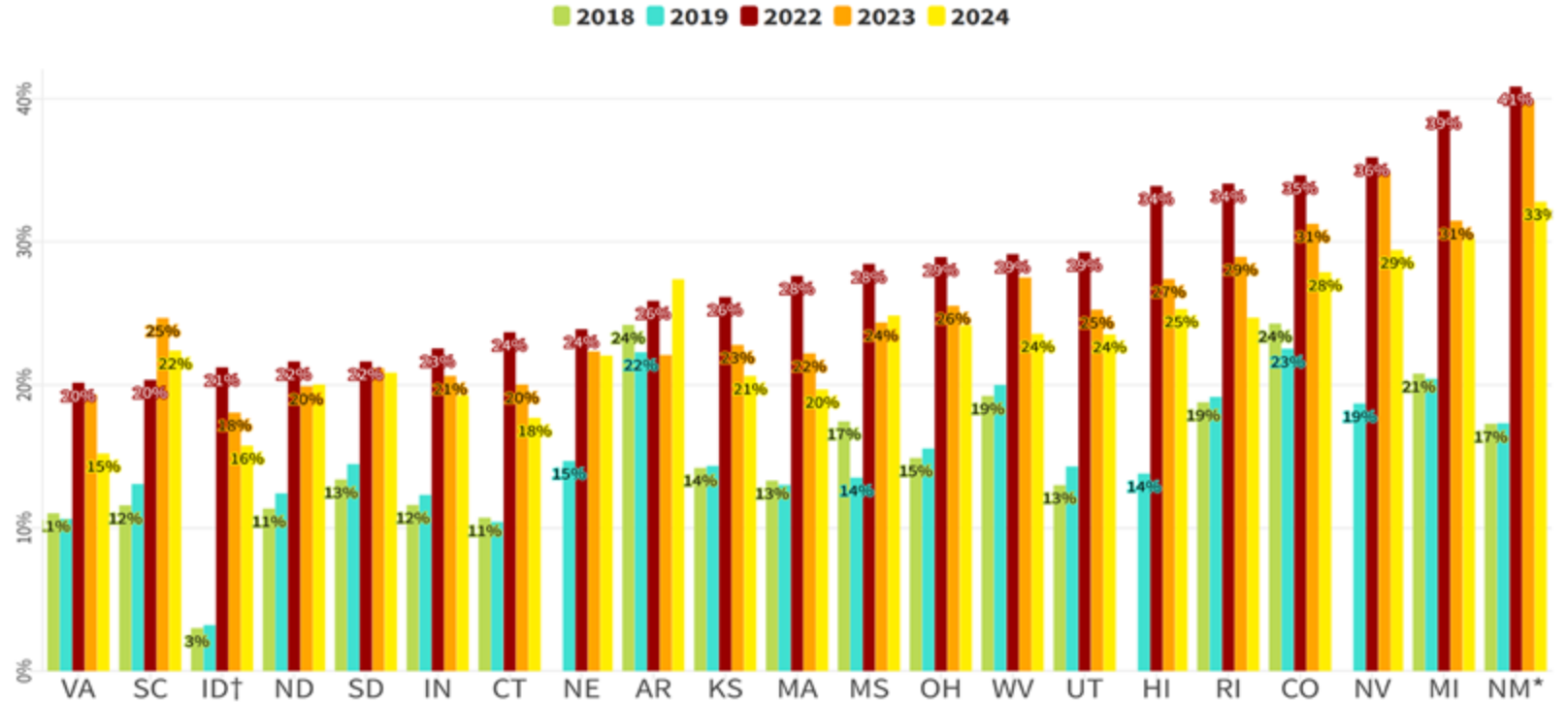
National Chronic Absence Crisis



Source: US Department of Education, Ed Facts

- ✓ The number of chronically absent students grew from 8.1 to 14.7 million in 2022. It still affected 13.4 million in 2023.
- ✓ Emerging 2024 data shows some decrease but still elevated.

Emerging data shows chronic absenteeism remained elevated in SY 2023-24



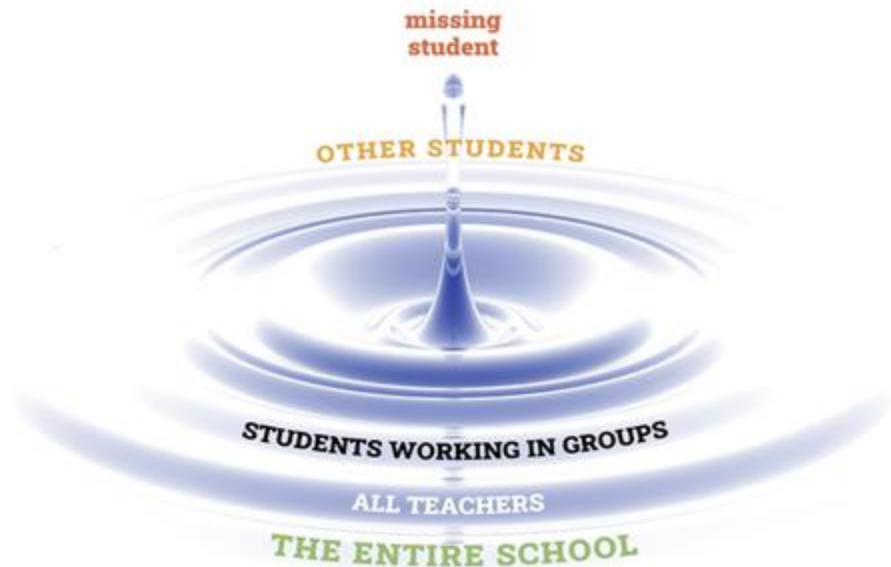
* State reported average for 23-24, prior years based on R2L analysis of district-level data

† Questionable pre-pandemic data quality

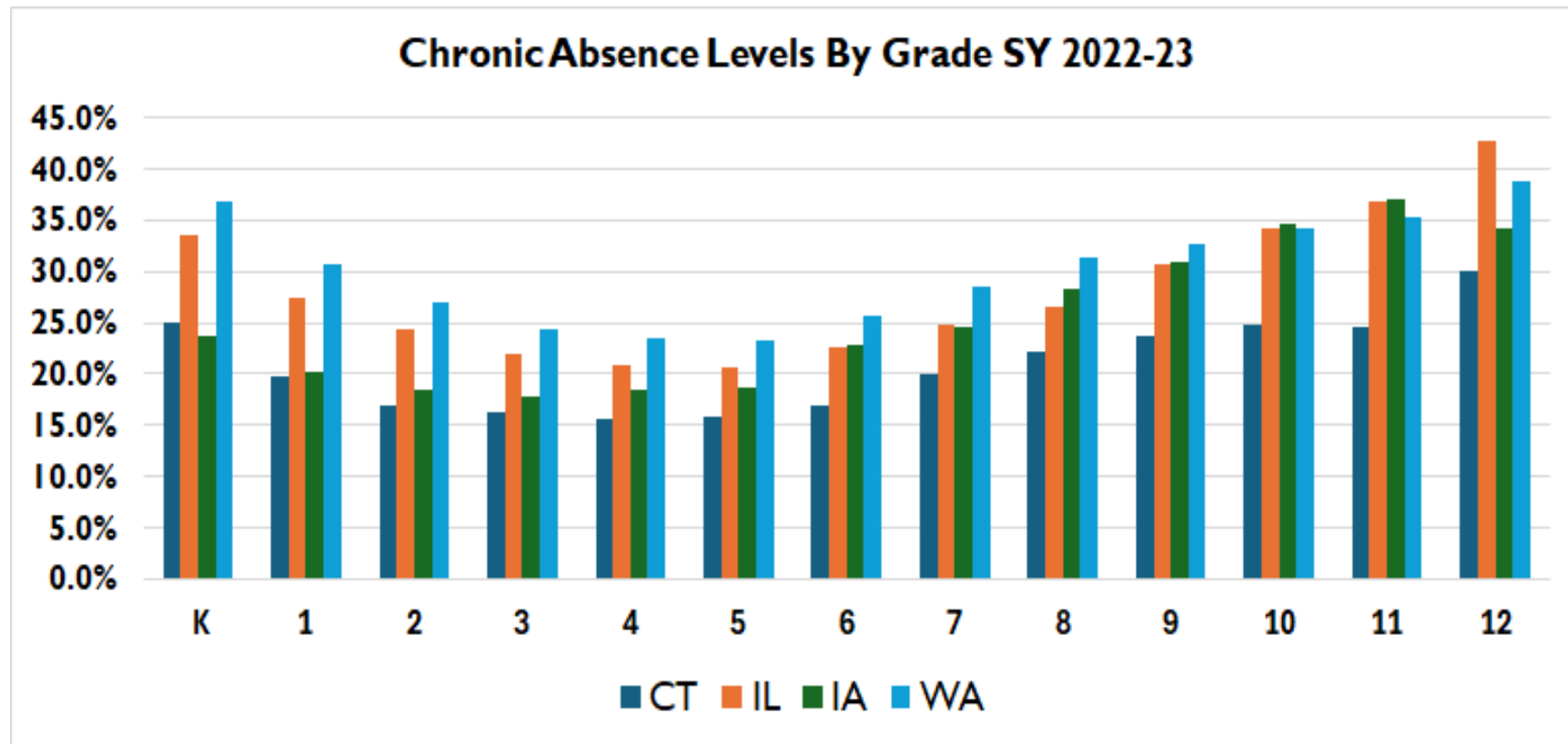




When Chronic Absence Reaches High Levels, Everyone Is Affected



Chronic Absence Is Especially High in the Early Grades



Defining Terms

Average Daily Attendance (ADA)

- School level measure (not student level)
- Notices aggregate attendance at certain point in time (e.g., half-days, holidays, bad weather)
- Masks individual student chronic absences

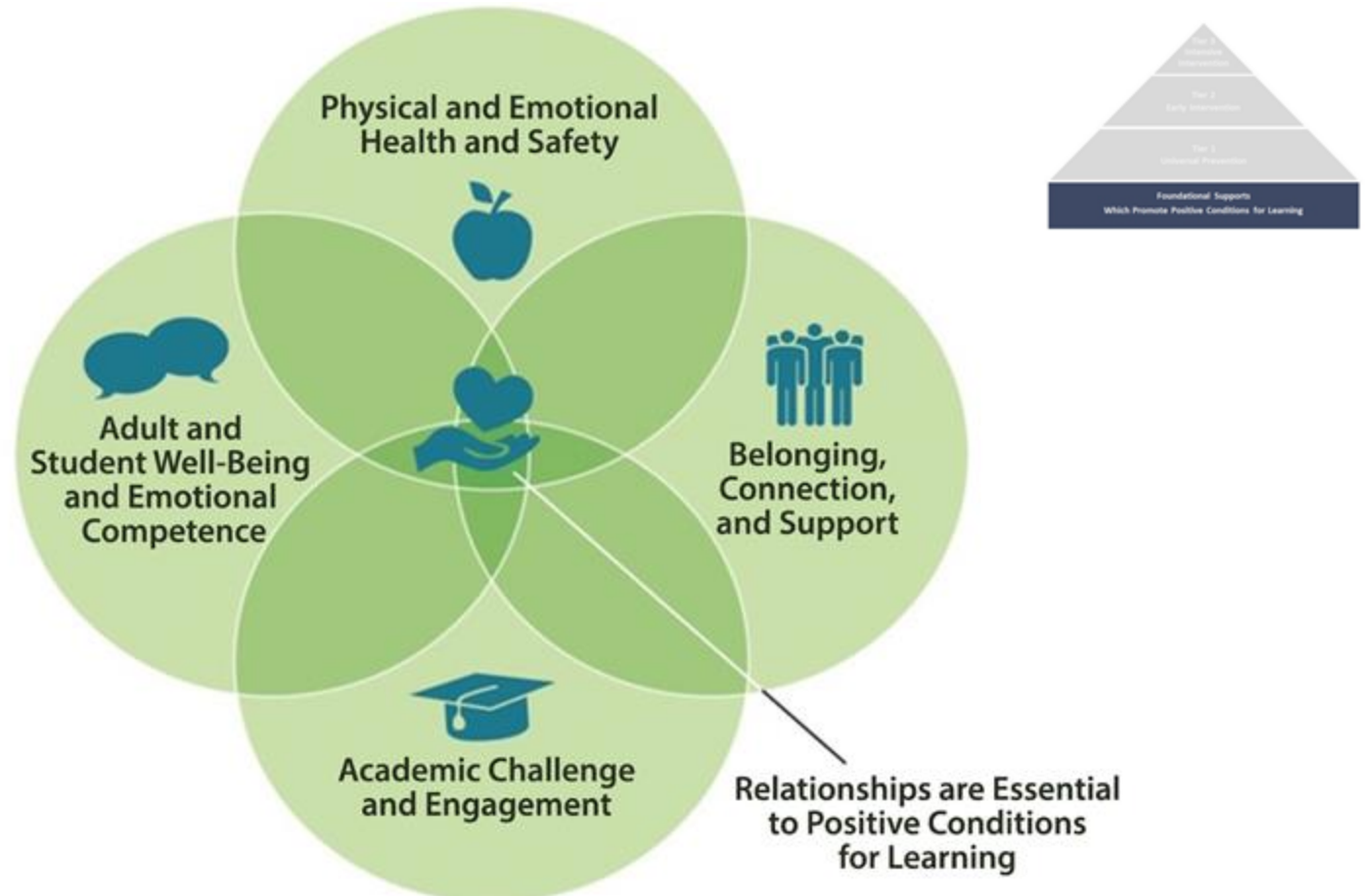
Truancy

- ▲ Counts ONLY unexcused absences
- ▲ Emphasizes individual compliance with school rules
- ▲ Uses legal, typically more blaming and punitive, solutions

Chronic Absence

- Missing 10% counts ALL absences (*excused, unexcused, & suspensions*)
- Emphasizes impact of missed days and the benefits of being present
- Uses preventative, problem-solving, trauma-sensitive strategies
- Cultivates family and student engagement

High levels of absence reflect an erosion in positive conditions for learning



Reducing chronic absence requires identifying and addressing what causes students to miss too much school

Barriers

- Chronic and acute illness
- Family responsibilities or home situation
- Trauma
- Poor transportation
- Housing and food insecurity
- Inequitable access to needed services (including health)
- System involvement
- Lack of predictable schedules for learning
- Lack of access to technology
- Community violence

Aversion

- Struggling academically and/or behaviorally
- Unwelcoming school climate
- Social and peer challenges
- Anxiety
- Biased disciplinary and suspension practices
- Undiagnosed disability and/or lack of disability accommodations
- Caregivers had negative educational experiences

Disengagement

- Lack of challenging, culturally responsive instruction
- Bored
- No meaningful relationships to adults in the school (especially given staff shortages)
- Lack of enrichment opportunities
- Lack of academic and behavioral support
- Failure to earn credits
- Need to work conflicts with being in high school

Misconceptions

- Absences are only a problem if they are unexcused
- Missing 2 days per month doesn't affect learning
- Lose track and underestimate TOTAL absences
- Assume students must stay home for any symptom of illness
- Attendance only matters in the older grades
- Suspensions don't count as absence

<https://www.attendanceworks.org/chronic-absence/addressing-chronic-absence/3-tiers-of-intervention/root-causes/>

Shifting the Attendance Mindset

Compliance



**Action
Alert**

Judgment



**Relationship
Building**

Blame



**Problem
Solving**

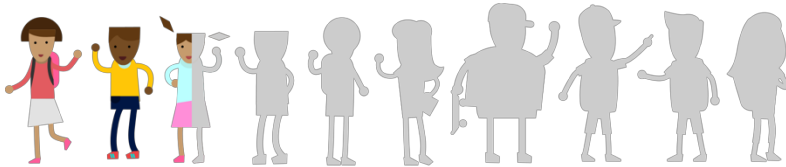
Parent Perception Not Aligned with Actual Performance Data



PERCEPTION

89%

Parents, regardless of race, income, and education level, believe their child is at or above grade level in reading and math*.



PERFORMANCE

26%

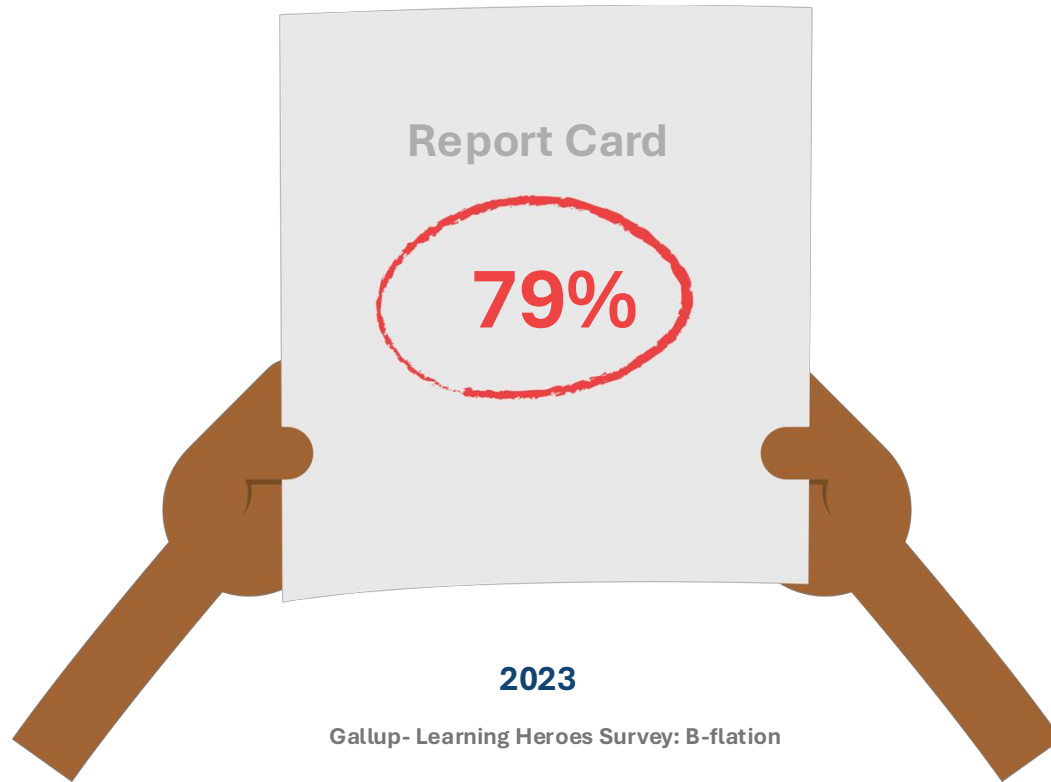
Eighth grade students nationally score proficient or higher.**

*Gallup Learning Heroes Parents 2023 Survey

**2022 NAEP 8th grade reading data

Report Cards Don't Tell the Whole Story

Percent of parents who report their children get mostly B's and above

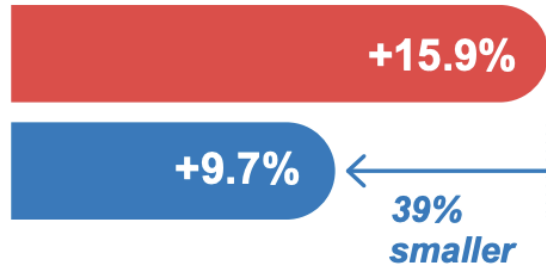


Gallup- Learning Heroes Survey: B-flation

Family Engagement Impact Study

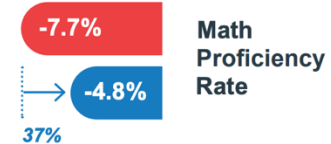
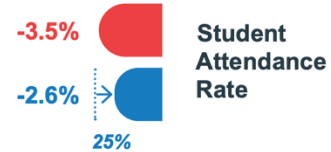
Average change in outcomes from 2018-19 to 2021-22

Chronic
Absenteeism
Rate



Weak Engagement

Strong Engagement



EveryDay Labs

Mission: Enable every student to have the opportunity to learn every day

Data
Intelligence &
Collaboration
Tools

Professional
Learning for
High Impact
Action

Evidence-Based
Attendance
Communications

- Chronic Absence Nudges
- Truancy Notices
- Targeted Campaigns
- Chatbot & Phone-Based Family Support

Research & Impact:

- Founded by Harvard Kennedy School Professor Dr. Todd Rogers
- Serve (and receive data for) over 1.5 million students across 60+ school districts nationwide
- Gold standard randomized controlled evaluations (RCTs) with 14 school districts
- Recognized by John Hopkins University as meeting “Strong Evidence for ESSA”

Most schools struggle to invest sufficiently in prevention and early intervention

Investment = time and resources

Intensive Support
(20%+ missed days)

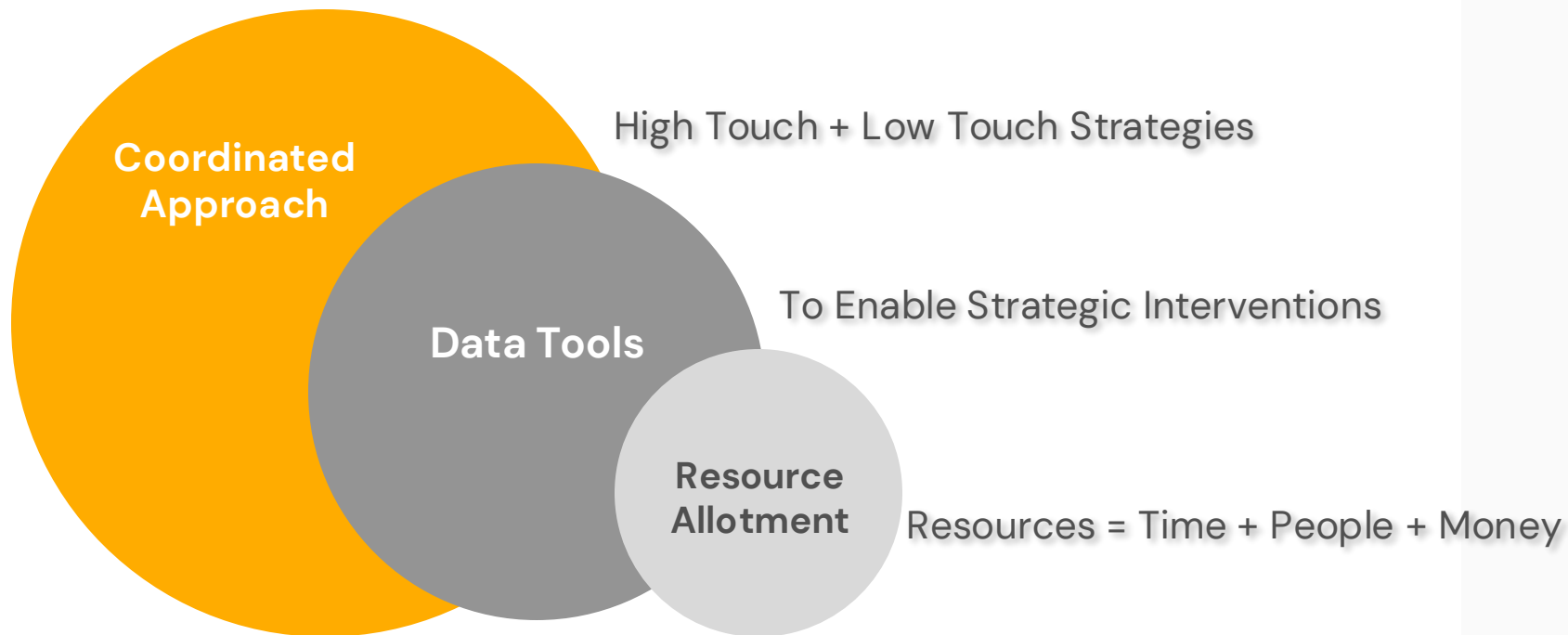
Invest a lot here

Early Intervention
(5-20% missed days)

If there isn't a lot of investment here

Whole School Prevention

Essential Components



Data tools to enable strategic intervention

The screenshot displays a software interface for managing student data. At the top, it is titled "ALL STUDENTS" and includes a search filter set to "All Absence Rates (YTD)". Below this, a table lists individual students with columns for their names, patterns, assessments, interventions, and total absences. A sidebar on the right provides detailed information for a selected student, including notes, intervention groups, student and contact information, enrollment details, and demographic data.

FIRST NAME	LAST NAME	PATTERNS	ASSESSMENT	INTERVENTIONS	TOTAL ABSENCE
Jason	Abbott			Barrier Assessment	12
Nicholas	Adams	Early Abs.		Barrier Assessment	22
Thomas	Adams				0
Kenneth	Allen	Mon			7
David	Alvarez				13
Aaron	Anderson				10
Adam	Anderson				35
Donald	Anderson				11

NOTES
Add Note

INTERVENTION GROUPS
Moderate chronic, missing Mondays +
Show Archived Groups

STUDENT INFORMATION
Grade level: 1

CONTACT INFORMATION
36533 Gabriel Mission Suite 026

ENROLLMENTS
Canyon View Institute
Grade 1
8/12/2021 - today

DEMOGRAPHICS
FRPL STATUS: not FRPL eligible
HOMELESS STATUS: not homeless
GENDER: FEMALE
RACE: WHITE

Coordinated Approach

Low Touch	High Touch
<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Effective communication of attendance norms and policies● Regular, personalized attendance communications● Targeted attendance campaigns● Early warning phone calls● Connection building interventions (check in / check out)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Home visits● Family attendance conferences● Connecting families to district resources● Building and capitalizing on community partnerships● Mentors● Individualized incentive strategies

Low Touch: Attendance Nudge Campaign

RPS RICHMOND PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Albert Hill Middle School
3400 Patterson Avenue
Richmond, VA 23221

Parent/Guardian of
CASEY LEE
123 2nd Street
Anytown, USA 12345

Your November Update
Casey has missed 6 days this school year*
How can we help?

Dear Parent/Guardian of Casey Lee,
Many families tell us it is helpful to get updates about their student's attendance help you track Casey's attendance, you may receive additional letters this school year. Casey is an important part of our school community. We want to partner with you help Casey attend school every day. If we can help with anything, call the school or see the resources on the back of letter.

Sincerely,
Tanya Maple
Principal
Albert Hill Middle School

Casey's Attendance Snapshot

Casey	6 Absences
Average 6th Grade student at Casey's School	4 Absences

Total Missed Days of School

*Questions about this letter? Call 555-123-4567 and reference this unique code let1234, or see the footnote on the back for more info.

Track Casey's Absences
Casey's most recent absences occurred on the following dates:
(date, day, month)

- Tues, Sep 28 (E)
- Monday, Oct 2 (S)
- Fri, Oct 6 (S)
- Wed, Oct 11 (S)
- Mon, Oct 16 (E)
- Wed, Oct 25 (S)

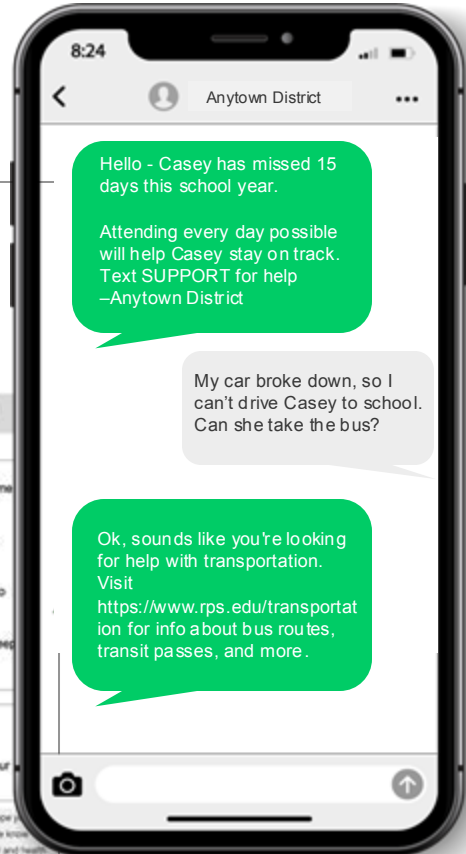
Did you know? All missed school, for both excused and unexcused reasons, adds up to lost learning time.

Start the school year off right!
Create a routine to help Casey learn and stay on track this year. Here are some tips that many families find useful:

- Choose a spot to keep your child's school backpack and supplies.
- Work with your child to check their backpack each night to look for homework and important notes.
- Make sure Casey gets to bed on time! Getting enough sleep will help Casey be ready for the school day.

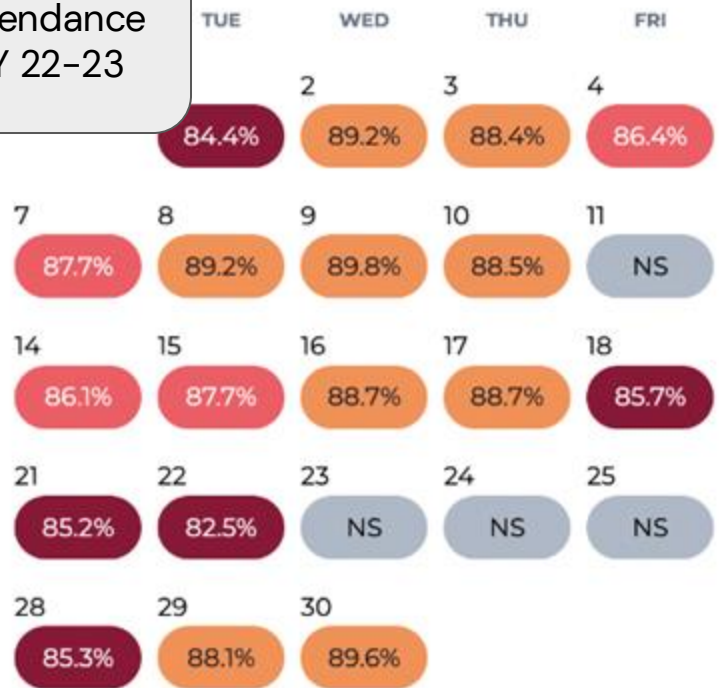
We're Here to Help!
If we can help with anything, call the school: (school_phone)
For food, technology support, translation services, and other resources call our Family Support Hotline: 555-123-4567.

* We send these letters to help families keep track of attendance. It's just for your information, and we hope it's helpful. The letter lists excused and unexcused absences between the first day of school and (full_date). We know students miss school due to illness, religious holidays, or emergencies. Please talk with your student's school and health provider in advance when your student will miss school. For questions and support, or if you no longer want to receive these letters, contact (parent_support_phone) and provide the code below.
Unique Code: <<DT unique code>>



Low Touch: Targeted Attendance Campaign

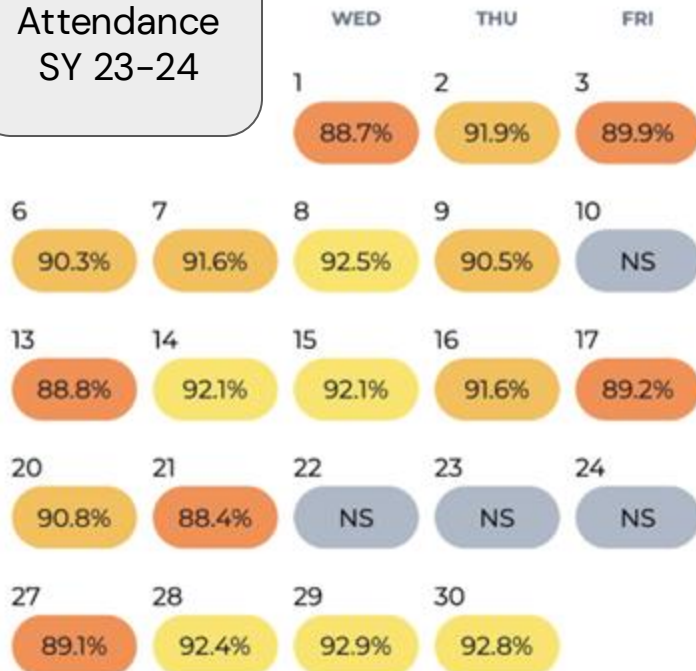
November Attendance
SY 22-23



EveryDay Labs

District Update: Morning
week are key
students should
learning happens
wait to see all stu
w

November Attendance
SY 23-24



Hi from Townert
you have a gre
wait to see yo
school on Mon

School
Attendance

Questions & Discussion

Upcoming GLR Learning Tuesdays Webinars:

CRUCIBLE OF PRACTICE SALON

The Intersection of Progress and Practice: Actualizing the Science of Reading

Tuesday, December 10, 12:30–2:00 pm ET/9:30-11:00 am PT

LEARNING LOSS RECOVERY CHALLENGE

Pathways to Progress: Inspiring Success Stories in Student Learning Recovery

Tuesday, December 10, 3:00–4:30 pm ET/12–1:30 p.m. PT

PARTNER WEBINAR

Children Before Dollar Signs: Necessary Guardrails for Private Equity in Child Care

Tuesday, December 17, 3:00–4:30 pm ET/12–1:30 p.m. PT

Join us!

gradelevelreading.net [@readingby3rd](https://twitter.com/readingby3rd) [#GLReading](https://twitter.com/GLReading) [#LearningTuesdays](https://twitter.com/LearningTuesdays) [#GLRKeepers](https://twitter.com/GLRKeepers)

