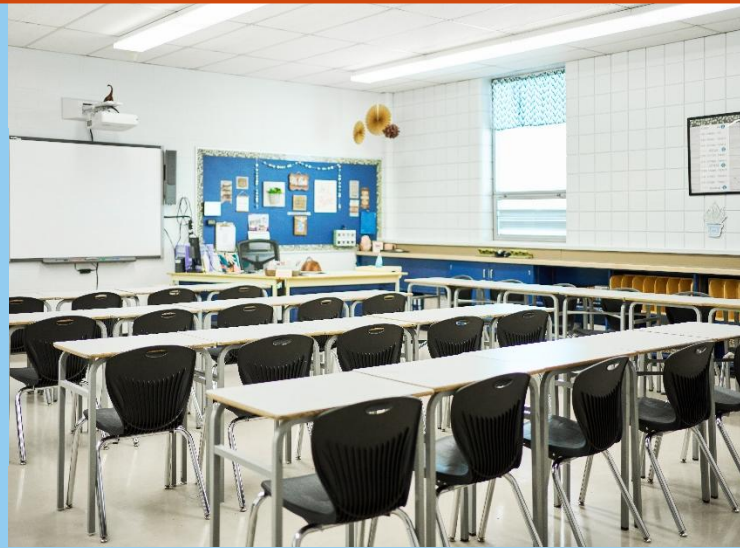


THRIVING SCHOOLS KEY PRIORITY:

Preventing Student Chronic Absence

The Intersection of Health & Education



Positive health, economic, and educational outcomes are linked to student attendance. In fact, school attendance is a significant predictor of high school graduation, which is considered a key driver of success. Unfortunately, **approximately 28% of students nationwide are chronically absent, missing 10% or more of a school year.**

While there are many reasons why students are chronically absent, health issues are key factors.

The connection between health and attendance has always been significant, and this relationship has only been further emphasized by the COVID-19 pandemic. Unaddressed rates of chronic absence have serious implications on long-term population health and school budgets.

Experts agree that health systems like ours are uniquely equipped to address the connection between health and attendance. For example, health care providers can be key messengers in explaining the importance of attendance to families; as well as working with school partners to encourage programs that help support student and staff physical and mental well-being. Our continued work at the intersection of schools and health make us well positioned to lead this effort.

"Student chronic absence is a warning sign that a health-related condition or a social determinant of health may need to be addressed...In addition, students who are chronically absent from school are more likely to display behavior and discipline problems and engage in unhealthy activities."

-Attendance Works
A Thriving Schools national partner

To learn more, contact ThrivingSchools@kp.org, visit kp.org/thrivingschools, or follow [@thrivingschools](https://twitter.com/thrivingschools) on X.

By The Numbers

Making the Case for Preventing Student Chronic Absence

- A student who is chronically absent for any year between 8th and 12th grade is over 7 times more likely to drop out of school (by high school, attendance is a better dropout indicator than test scores). Source: [U.S. Department of Education](#)
- Children with persistent asthma are more than 3 times more likely than their peers to have 10 or more absences. Source: [CDC](#)
- Adolescents with a current mental or behavioral health diagnosis are 5 times as likely to miss 11 or more days of school for health reasons in the past 12 months, compared to those with no current diagnosis. Source: [Maternal and Child Health Bureau](#)
- One study found that 16% of students who were absent for at least a day in the past year and missed school for reasons other than physical illness said they didn't attend because of anxiety, and 12% said they felt too sad or depressed to attend. Source: [EdWeek Research Center](#)
- Students who are chronically absent in both kindergarten and 1st grade are much less likely to be reading at grade level by 3rd grade. Students who are not reading at grade level by 3rd grade are 4 times more likely to drop out of high school. Source: [Robert Wood Johnson Foundation](#)
- Students who attend school regularly are 1.7 times more likely to achieve proficiency in core subjects such as math and reading compared to their counterparts with irregular attendance. Source: [U.S. Department of Education](#)
- A national survey revealed that students with an attendance rate of 95% or higher are more likely to earn grades of A or B, while those with lower attendance rates are at a higher risk of falling behind academically. Source: [University of Chicago Consortium on Chicago School Research](#)