

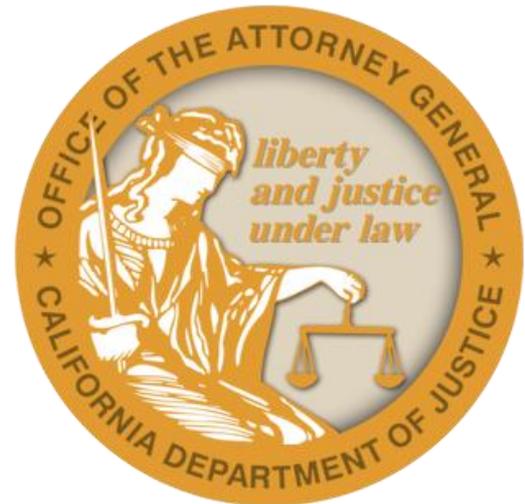
IN SCHOOL + ON TRACK 2014

California's Elementary
School Truancy & Chronic
Absence Crisis



What We Can Do
To Solve it

#EveryKidCounts





Methodology

- ***School District Leadership Survey***—158 school district leaders completed our survey providing detailed information about current attendance rates, practices, and procedures, as well as plans they have to improve their present systems.
- ***Aeries Survey***—35 Aeries client districts provided us with attendance rates disaggregated by grade, ethnicity, and other subgroup categories. Overall sample size was 147,749 California students.
- ***California Department of Education***—CDE provided us with census enrollment, cumulative enrollment, number of truant students, ADA and revenue limit data. This allowed us to calculate the elementary school truancy rates and determine lost revenues.



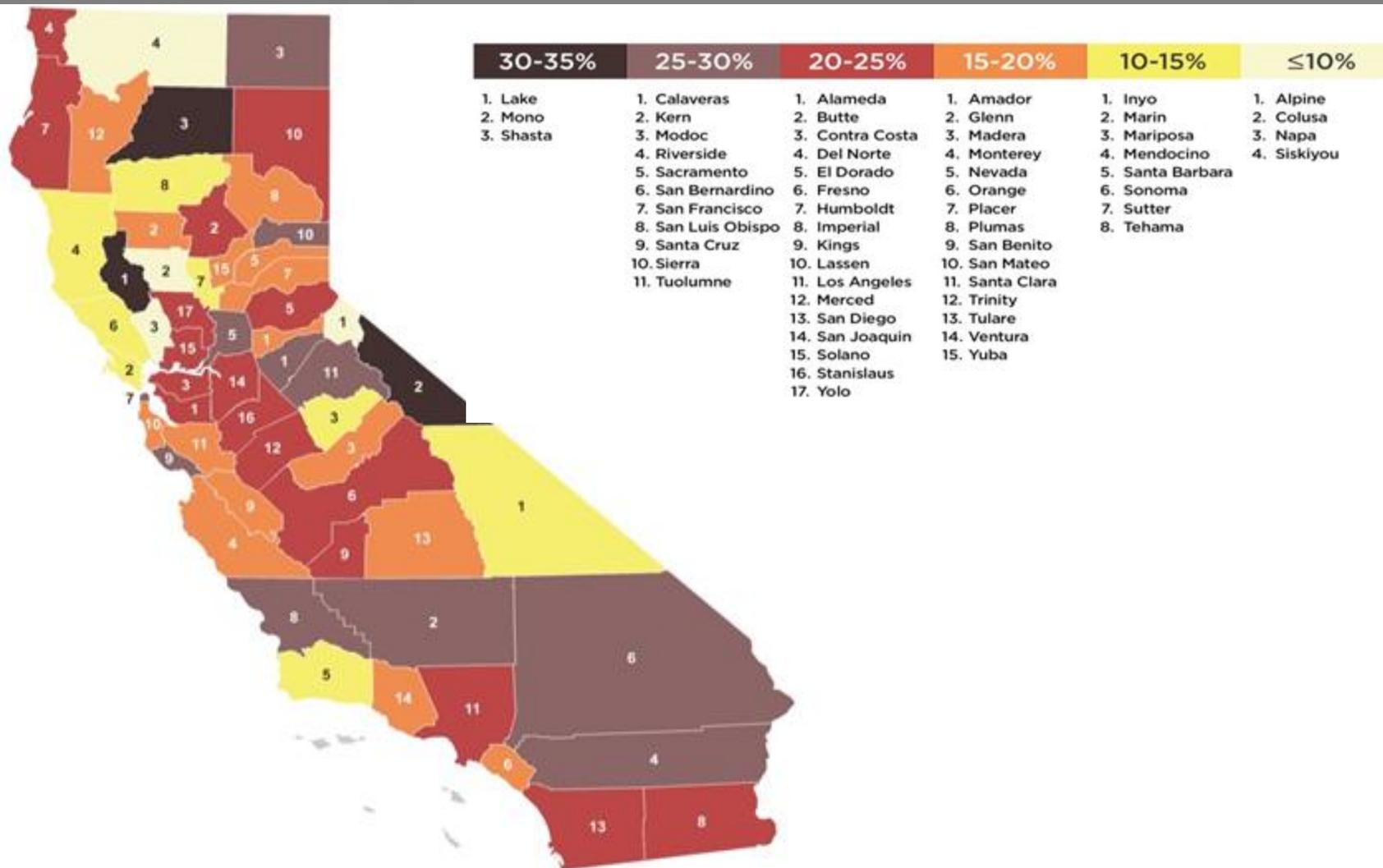
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LESSON 1: BIG PROBLEM



2012 – 2013

Elementary School Truancy Rates

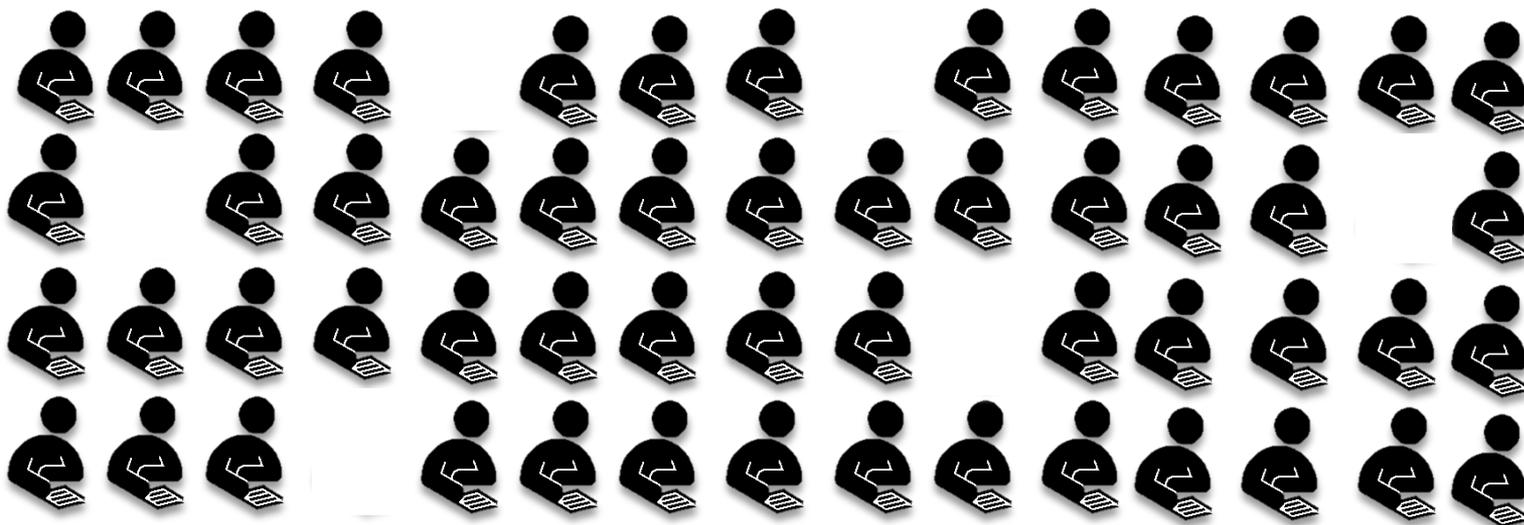




2012 – 2013

Elementary School Chronically Absent Rates

250,000 elementary school students in CA are estimated to be **chronically absent** – missing 10% or more of the school year.

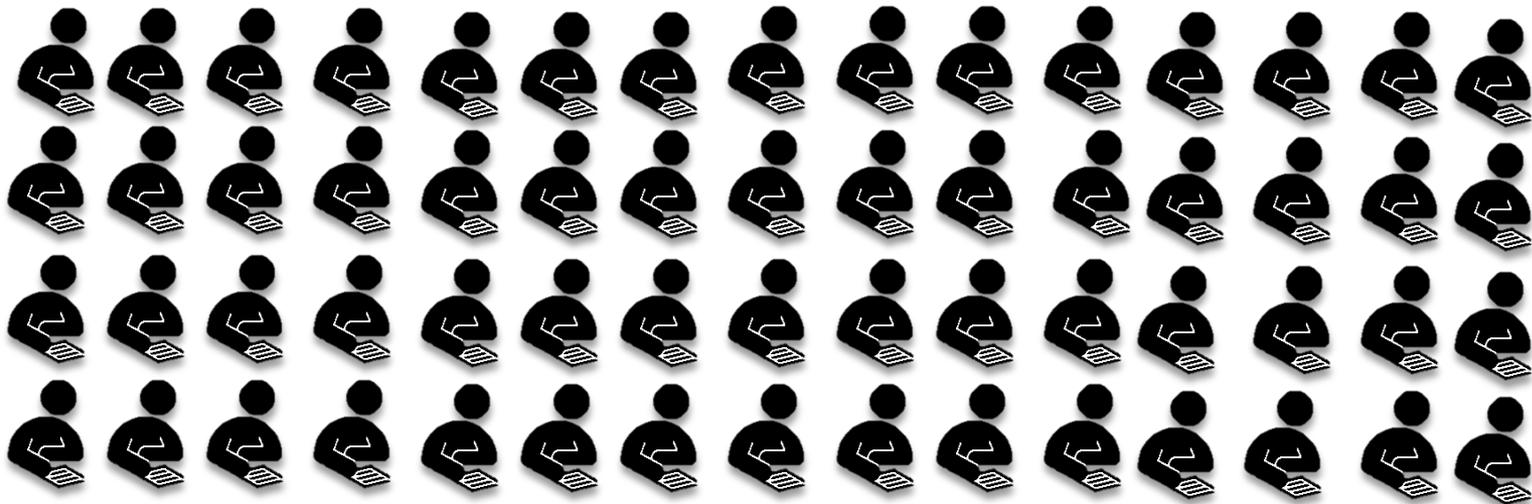




2012 – 2013

Elementary School Truancy Rates

- **50,000 elementary school students are chronically truant**
(10% or more of the school year missed for *unexcused* absences)
- **40,000 elementary school students are severely chronically absent**
(missing 20% or more of the school year, or approximately 36 days)





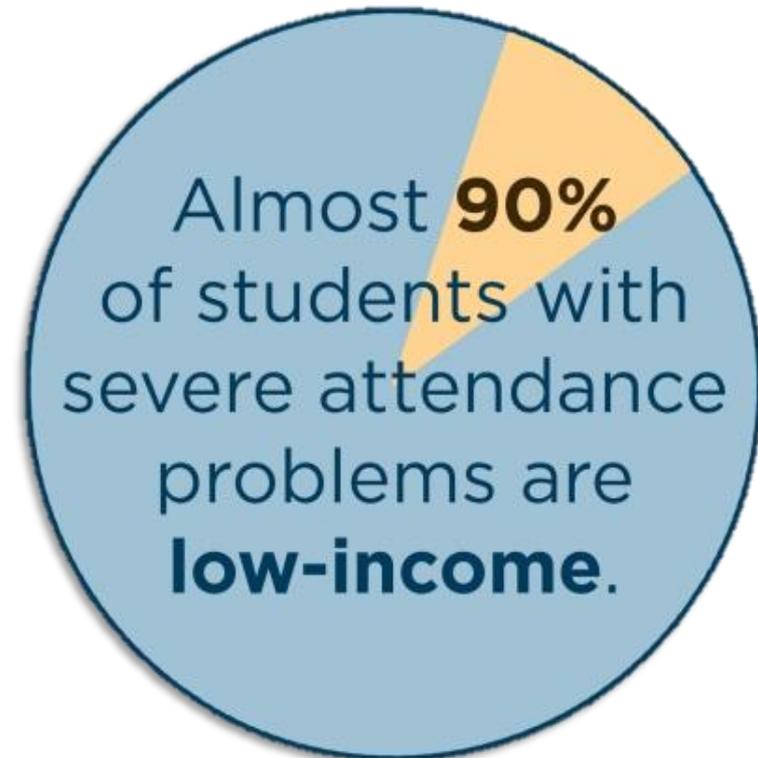
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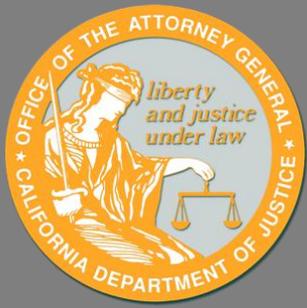
**Disadvantaged Youth Suffer
Greater Disparities**



Low-Income Students

- **2,064,742** K-6 students in CA
- **1 in 10** chronically absent in 2013-2014
- **45,000** chronically truant
- **35,000** severely chronically absent





Foster & Homeless Youth

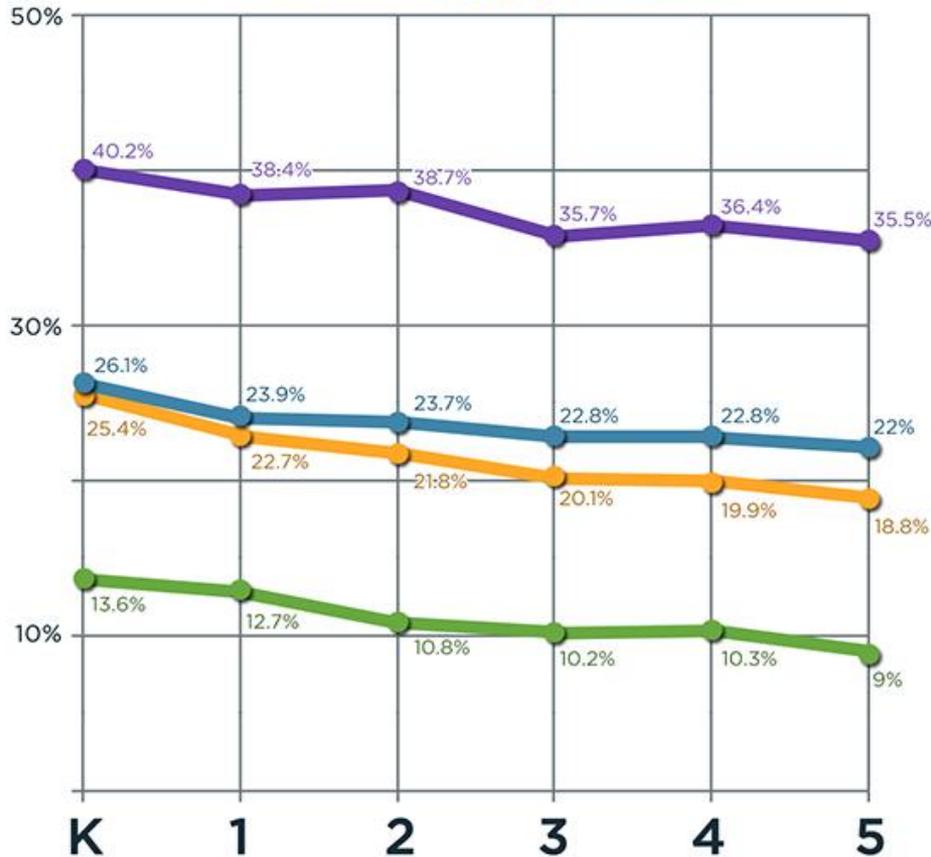
- **58,699** K-12 Foster Youth in CA
- **22%** of K-6 foster students were truant in 2013-2014 and **1 in 10** were chronically absent
- Over 1 million children homeless in the United States—CA accounts for **21.3%** of the national total
- **1 in 3** homeless students were truant, and **1 in 20** were chronically truant



Truancy Rates

Truancy Rates

Broken Down by Race and Grade
African-American | *Latino* | *White* | *Asian*



Truancy =
3+ unexcused
absences/tardies

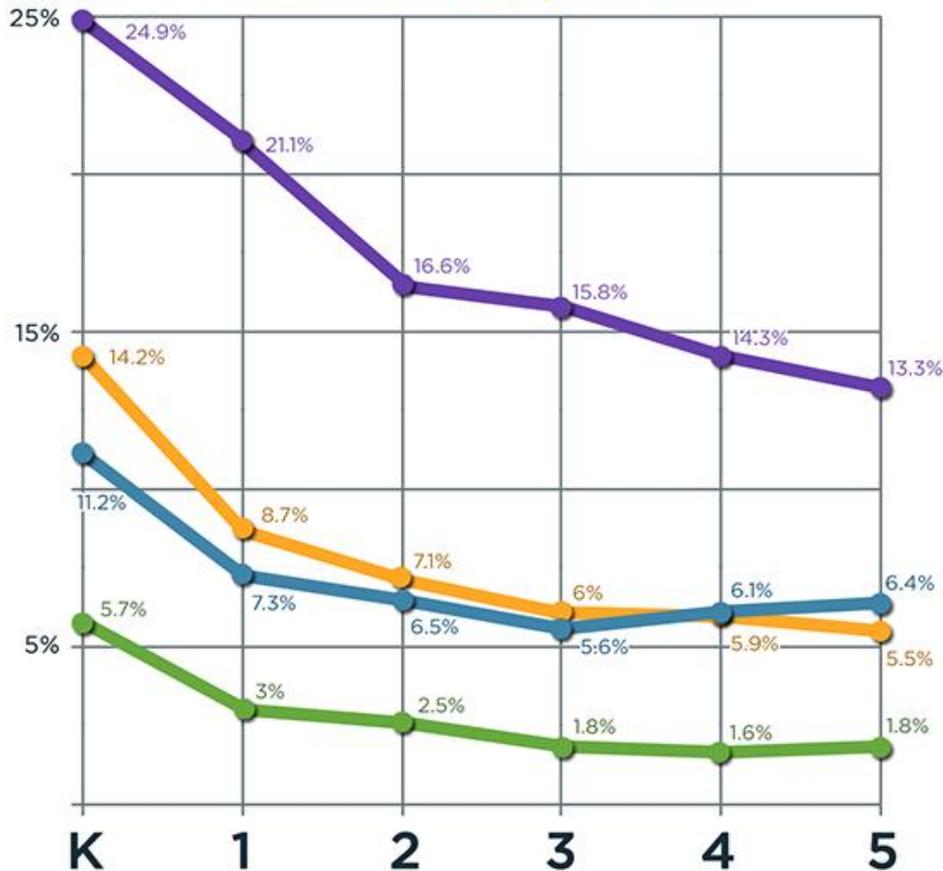


Chronic Absence Rates

Chronic Absence Rates

Broken Down by Race and Grade

African-American | Latino | White | Asian



Chronic Absence =
18+ missed days for
any reason

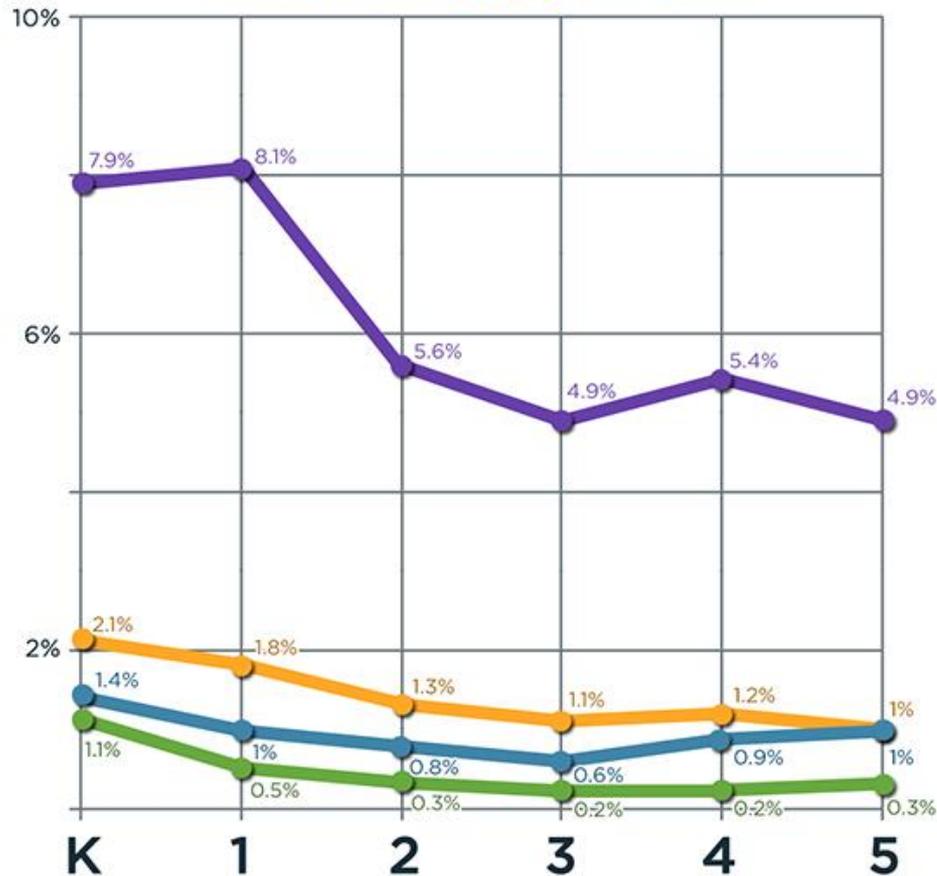


Chronic Truancy Rates

Chronic Truancy Rates

Broken Down by Race and Grade

African-American | Latino | White | Asian



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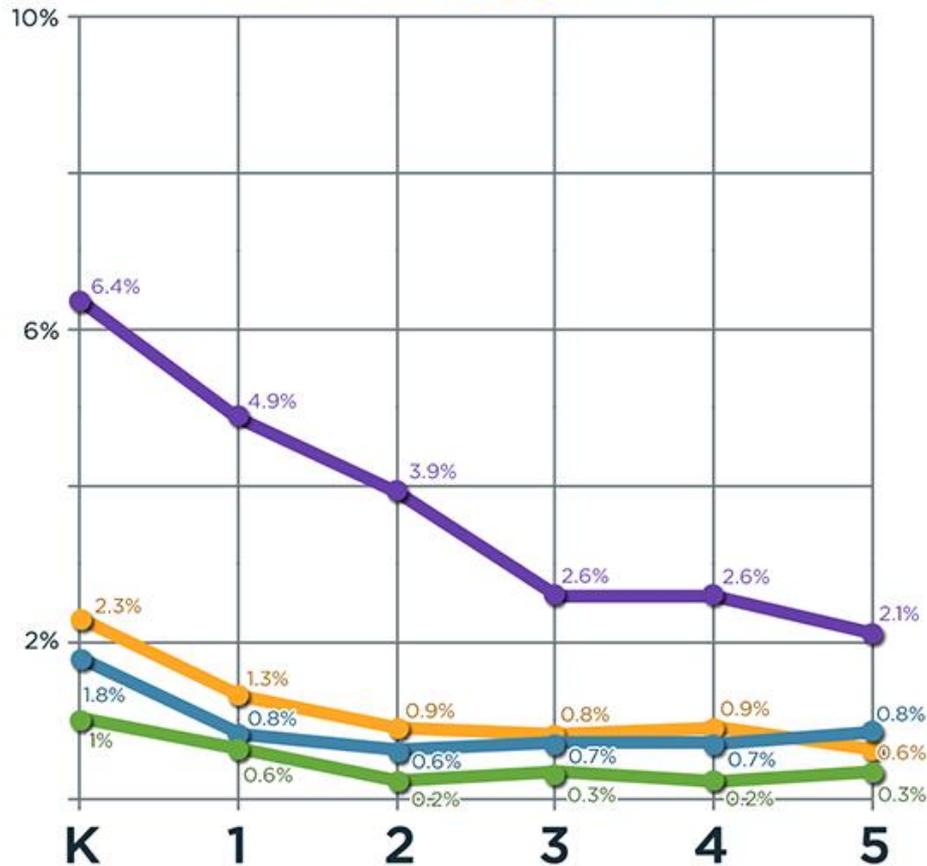


Severe Chronic Absence

Severe Chronic Absence Rates

Broken Down by Race and Grade

African-American | Latino | White | Asian



Severe Chronic
Absence =
36+ missed days for
any reason



Long-Term Effects of Absenteeism

.....

Only **17%** of chronically absent kindergartners and first graders in California read proficiently by 3rd grade.

.....

.....

Students who don't read proficiently by 3rd grade are **4 times** more likely to drop out of school.

.....



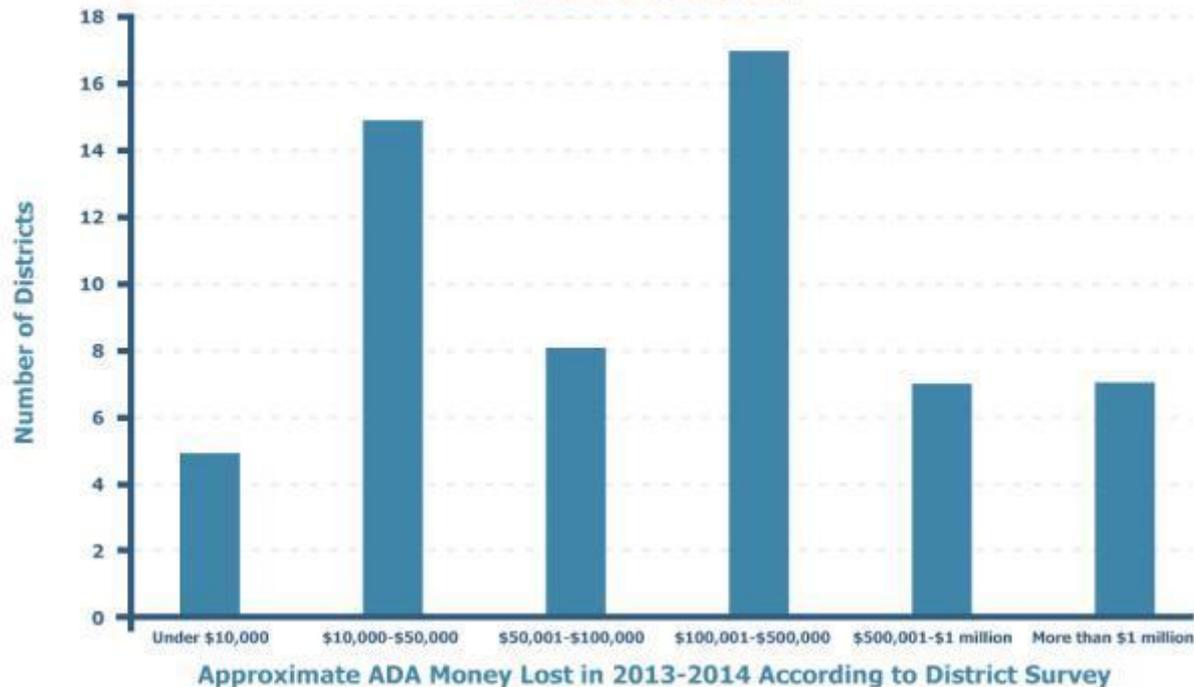
The Cost of Absenteeism in California

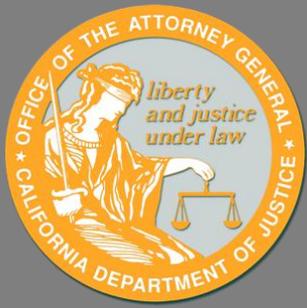
California school districts lost:

2010-2011 **\$1.40 billion**
2011-2012 **\$1.11 billion**
2012-2013 **\$1.06 billion**

\$3.57 BILLION

ADA Money Lost Due to Student Absenteeism in 2013-2014





TAKEAWAYS

- **250,000 CA elementary students at risk of falling behind due to poor attendance.**
- **African American elementary students suffer biggest attendance disparities.**
- **Absenteeism is worst in Kindergarten and 1st grade for all racial/ethnic groups – when it's most important for long-term foundation.**
- **Cost to students, schools, & state = too high.**



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LESSON 2: HIDDEN PROBLEM



Lack of Capacity + System Silos



1 in 10 districts reported that they **do not know** their chronic absence rate for the 2013-2014 school year.



1 in 5 school districts are unable to track their chronic absence rates beyond the past **two years**.



Out of **140** LCAPs, only **15.7%** of school districts identified their chronic absence rates.

RESULT: Districts are missing crucial attendance information that could aid prevention & early intervention



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LESSON 3: WE CAN SOLVE THIS



Investments Pay Off

APPROX. AMT SPENT ON TRUANCY PREVENTION ANNUALLY

No Money Spent

\$50,000 or less

PERCENTAGE OF DISTRICTS/SCHOOLS

17%

60%

RETURN ON INVESTMENT

Districts able to calculate net increase in funding due to truancy prevention initiatives

PERCENTAGE OF DISTRICTS/SCHOOLS

77% of those who measured

The average return on investments in attendance was \$339,000



Local Control Funding Formula – An Untapped Opportunity

- LCFF gives school districts a **base funding grant calculated by ADA**
- Additional funds are allocated based on the number disadvantaged youth
- Every school district **must adopt a Local Control & Accountability Plan (LCAP)**, which specifies annual goals/plans to address all eight state priorities
- One of the state's 8 priorities is **“pupil engagement,”** which is to be measured in part by **school attendance rates, chronic absenteeism rates**
- LCAPs must address all 8 state priorities for the entire student body, as well as for **certain pupil subgroups** (racial/ethnic subgroups, low-income pupils, English Learners, pupils with disabilities, and foster youth)



Local Control Funding Formula – An Untapped Opportunity

Our Review of Attendance in 2014 LCAPs

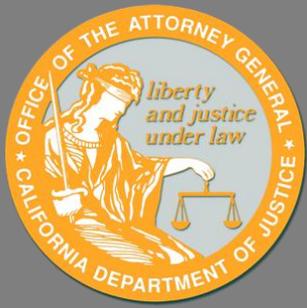
- Out of 140 LCAPs, only **15.7%** of school districts provide baseline chronic absences rates
- Out of 40 LCAPs, **50%** of districts fail to identify funding for attendance programs/infrastructure
- **60%** of LCAPs fail to identify goals or actions to improve attendance for their disadvantaged students



Local Control Funding Formula – An Untapped Opportunity

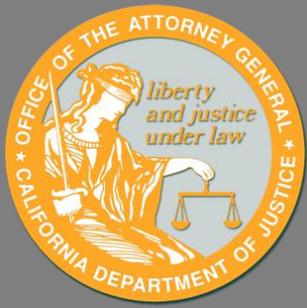
80 LCAP Review by Nonprofit Coalition

- **33%** of LCAPs do not mention chronic absence at all
- **15%** merely reference chronic absence as a metric they consider, without setting forth any goals regarding chronic absence
- Only **30%** include specific annual goals for reducing chronic absence
- Only **18%** include baseline data on current chronic absence rate
- Only **5%** set forth chronic absence goals disaggregated by subgroup



Recommendations Moving Forward

1. **Use your LCAP to ensure accountability for attendance – WE CAN HELP!**
2. **Modernize the district and state student records systems for attendance**
3. **Expand, Improve, and Measure Outcomes for School Attendance Review Boards (SARBs)**
4. **Critically assess any school policies that remove students from the classroom**
5. **Design and implement programs to communicate that school attendance is important, and it's the law**
6. **Assess and Improve District Attorney and other law enforcement officials' participation on SARBs and other informal or formal attendance collaborations; prosecute only the most recalcitrant cases of truancy when all prior interventions fail**



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Thank You!

Read the entire

In School + On Track 2014 report at:

www.oag.ca.gov/truancy/2014

Stay tuned for the AG's Sample LCAP
& 2015 Report