Washington School Improvement Framework: Regular Attendance

Percentage of students who regularly attend school.

How is it calculated?

The percent of students enrolled for 90 calendar days or more throughout the school year, who are present for at least 90% of school days, or missing fewer than an average of 2 days per month.

This includes excused and unexcused absences, and any absence where a student misses 50% or more of the school day.

Which grades are included?

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A student’s total days enrolled are added together and divided by the number of absences. If there are less than 2 absences on average per 30 days enrolled, that student is considered regularly attending.

If there are an average of 2 or more absences, that student is considered chronically absent.

How is it combined?

The Regular Attendance rate is scored from 1 to 10, representing that school’s performance in comparison to the rest of the state. The measure will be reported and calculated for each student group within a school. Each student group’s scores are averaged with 9th Graders on Track and Dual Credit Participation, as applicable by grade span, to create the School Quality or Student Success indicator.

Why is Regular Attendance included? Why does it matter?

Every absence, excused or unexcused, is a learning opportunity lost and can have significant impacts on a student’s success in school and life. A student who misses 10% or more of their school days (just two days a month, for any reason) is considered chronically absent.

Chronically absent students are more likely to fall behind academically and less likely to graduate from high school. In Washington, 155,000 students are chronically absent. Absences are one of the key early warning indicators of not finishing high school.

Absences can often be the first signal that a student is facing barriers or challenges (such as academics, health concerns, transportation, not feeling safe, etc).

Visit www.k12.wa.us/Attendance

For more information about the Framework, visit http://www.k12.wa.us/ESSA
For data related inquiries, email us at AccountabilityData@k12.wa.us