



Chronic Absenteeism in 2022-23

K-12 Absenteeism in California

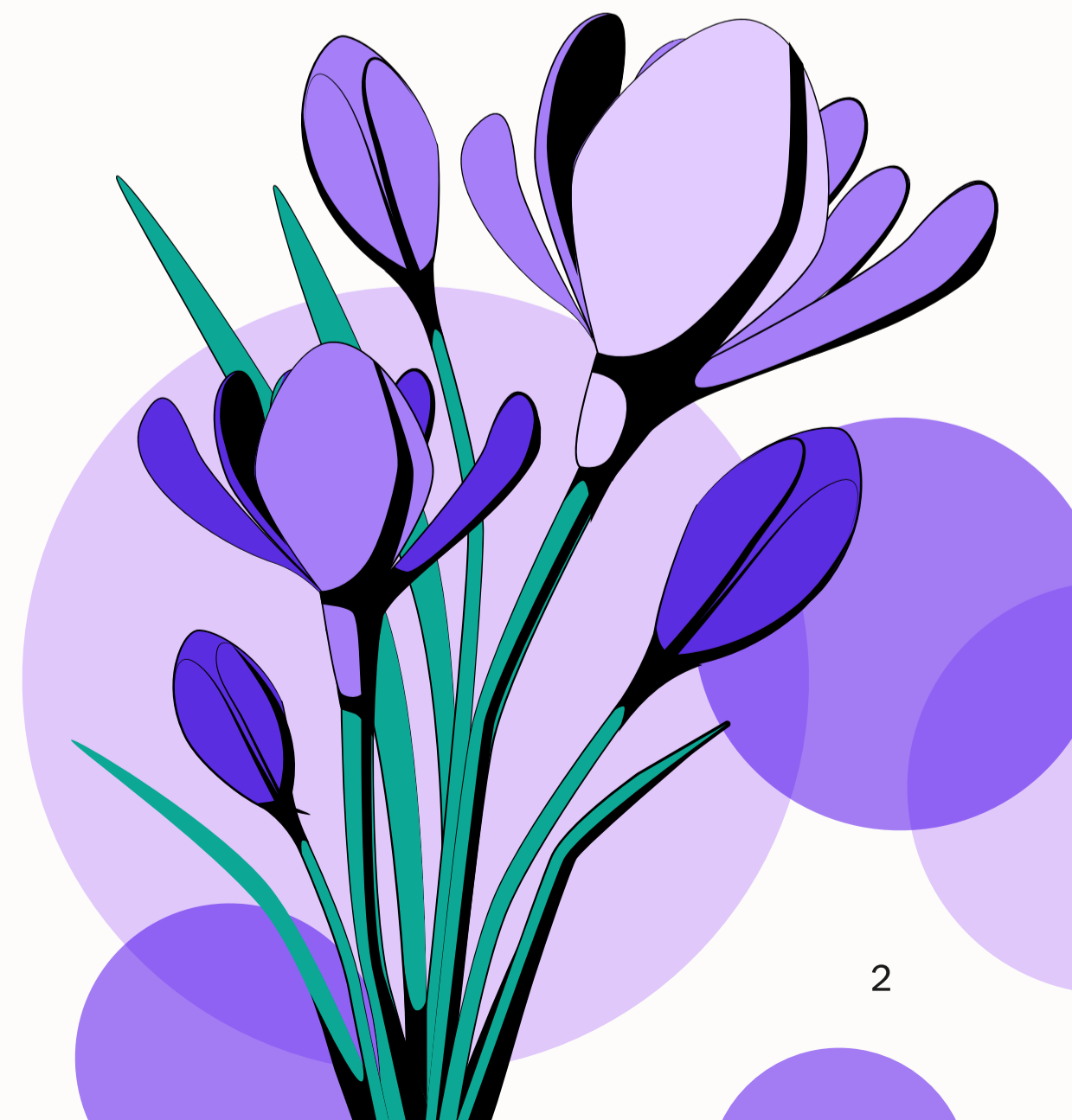
As districts worked to address disruptions caused by the COVID pandemic, recovering from patterns of increased absenteeism remained a critical issue, even when in-person learning resumed.

This report analyzes attendance data from nearly 325,000 PK-12 students in 30 districts across California. All saw heightened levels of chronic absenteeism from March 2022 to March 2023.

The California Department of Education (CDE) collects absenteeism information in arrears, so they enlisted SchoolStatus to help spot and address attendance patterns and trends as they occur. In partnership with the CDE, SchoolStatus created the following report to better understand why these trends were rising, which groups seemed to be the most at risk, and how to find solutions to address and tackle chronic absenteeism.

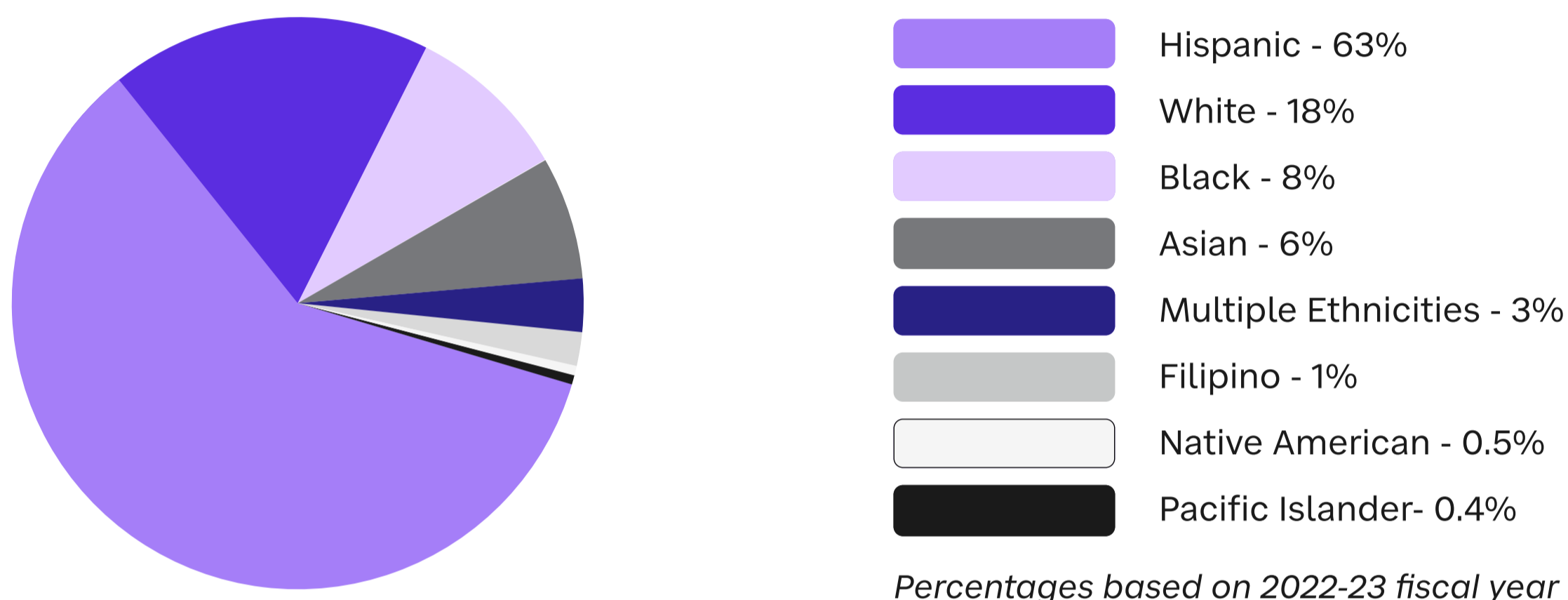
Students included in the sample missed a total of more than 15 million hours of learning time from 2022 to 2023. Historically marginalized student groups continued to have higher rates of absenteeism, which has further implications for equity as districts consider academic recovery.

SchoolStatus found that implementing their attendance management solutions—including consistent, positive school-home communication and automated attendance interventions—significantly improved student attendance compared to the state average. While this is an ongoing battle across districts in the U.S., the data shows that attentive and proactive solutions are key steps in recovery.



Demographic Breakdown of Dataset

The race and ethnicity composition of the nearly 325,000 students in this report resembles the overall California state enrollment.



SchoolStatus Chronic Absence Rates Calculations

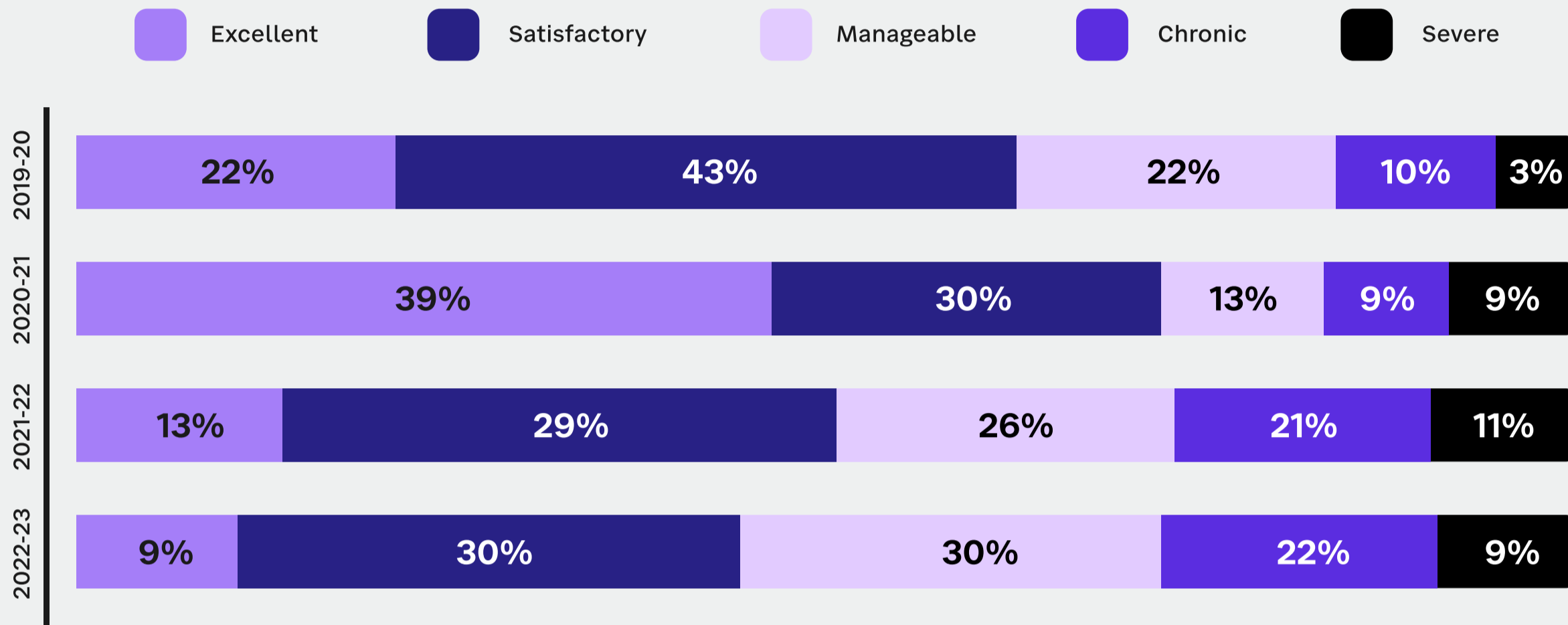
SchoolStatus chronic absence rates include more students than the California Dashboard:

- We include all students in every grade—including PK/TK and high school grades 9-12. The State only calculates based on TK-8
- Our chronic rate includes all active students
- We include all students regardless of how many days enrolled
- We calculate on a day equivalent basis, weighting partial days absences. The State calculates based on full day absences

Based on these differences, our numbers include more students and capture larger numbers for lost learning time than the California Dashboard.

Attendance Snapshot

Year-Over-Year

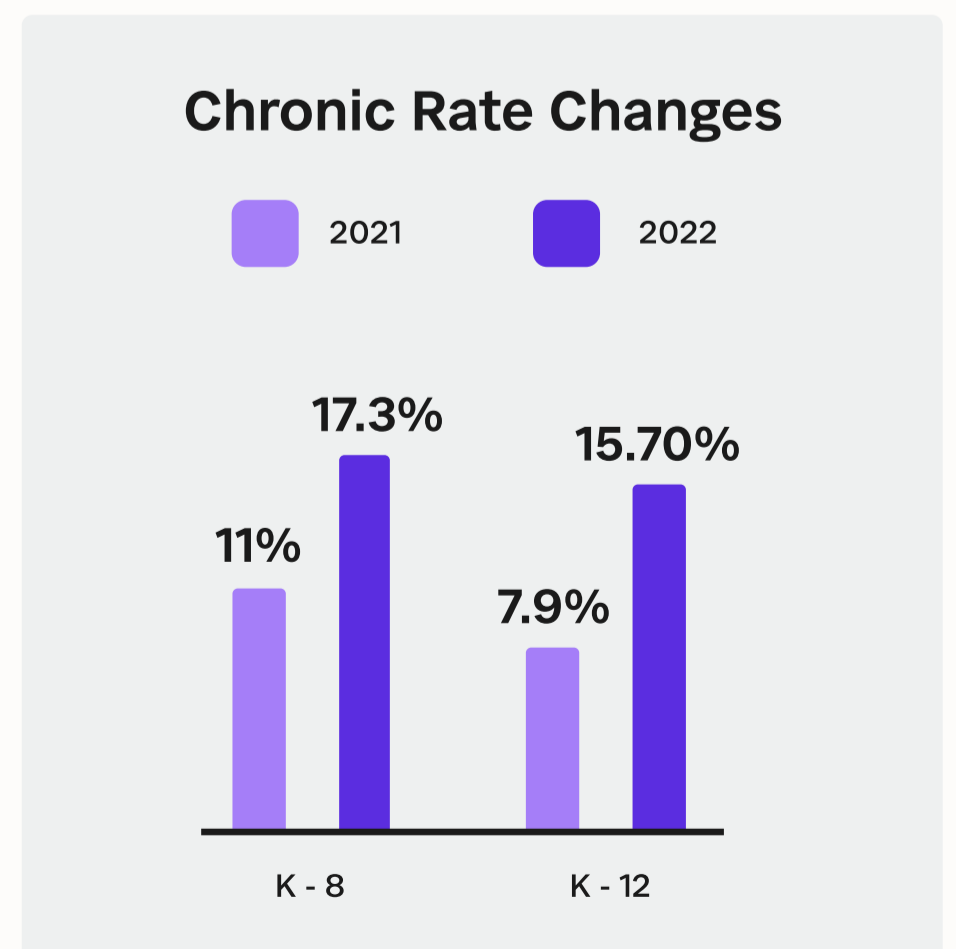


(Start of School to end of March)

Districts Using SchoolStatus have Lower Chronic Absence Rates of Change

SchoolStatus district partners outperform the statewide average in chronic absence rates of change when looking at the CA Dashboard from 2020/2021 to 2021/2022.

Although the data shows an increase in chronic absentee rates compared to pre-pandemic levels, districts who had implemented SchoolStatus Attend had better results.



Long Term Impacts of Missing School

Being late to class doesn't really make a big difference,
but this is what it can lead to:

If a student misses 30 minutes per month...

7.5

minutes per week



1

day per year



13

days over 13
years of schooling

If a student misses 10 minutes per day...

50

minutes per week



1

week per year



36%

of 1 school year

If a student misses 20 minutes per day...

100

minutes per week



2

weeks per year



~3/4

of 1 school year

If a student misses 30 minutes per day...

1/2

a day per year



3

weeks per year



>1

year over 13 years
of schooling

If a student misses 60 minutes per day...

1

day per week



7

weeks per year



>2.5

years over 13 years
of schooling

Percentages based on 2022-23 fiscal year

Long Term Impacts of Missing School

1 or 2 absences a week doesn't seem much, but this is what it can lead to:

If a student misses 1 day per quarter...

4 days per year = **1** week per year = **36%** of 1 school year

If a student misses 1 day per month...

10 days per year = **2** weeks per year = **~3/4** of 1 school year

If a student misses 4 days per quarter...

16 days per year = **3** weeks per year = **>1** year over 13 years of schooling

If a student misses 1 day per week...

36 days per year = **7** weeks per year = **>2.5** years over 13 years of schooling

If a student misses 2 days per week...

72 days per year = **14** weeks per year = **>5** years over 13 years of schooling

Percentages based on 2022-23 fiscal year

Chronic Rates Comparison Charts

Below you will see the comparisons from 2021 to 2023 by district size. The majority of our enrollment is in Unified School Districts, so the improvement in this group applies to more students. Nevertheless, there is still a long way to go for other districts in the State.

By District Size

District Size	March 2021	March 2022	March 2023	Est. Rate of Change	Rate of Change
<3500	20.0%	26.6%	21.5%	-19.1%	10.2%
3500 - 5000	11.4%	27.1%	21.5%	1.0%	29.7%
5000 - 10000	14.0%	25.2%	21.5%	3.8%	34.7%
10000 - 20000	19.1%	33.9%	31.7%	-6.6%	16.4%
> 20000	18.2%	35.6%	36.0%	1.1%	23.0%

Chronic Rates Comparison Charts, Cont.

By District Type

District Type	March 2021	March 2022	March 2023	Est. Rate of Change	Rate of Change
ESD	16.7%	28.9%	29.9%	3.6%	25.4%
HSD	25.9%	41.3%	43.9%	6.4%	25.3%
USD	14.7%	29.8%	27.1%	-9.1%	17.0%

Districts with both < 3,500 and 10k-20k enrollment had some of the largest SchoolStatus rates of increase in 2020. Additionally, the growth rate for districts with < 3,500 enrollment had a huge jump of 74.7% rate of increase in chronic absenteeism in the fall of 2020.

In the first year of the pandemic, we saw the largest growth rates in the “transition years” (K-3 and 9th-10th). These groups now experience the largest declines in chronic absences rates of change. Elevated absence rates in Kindergarten make family outreach and involvement critical.

By Grade K-5

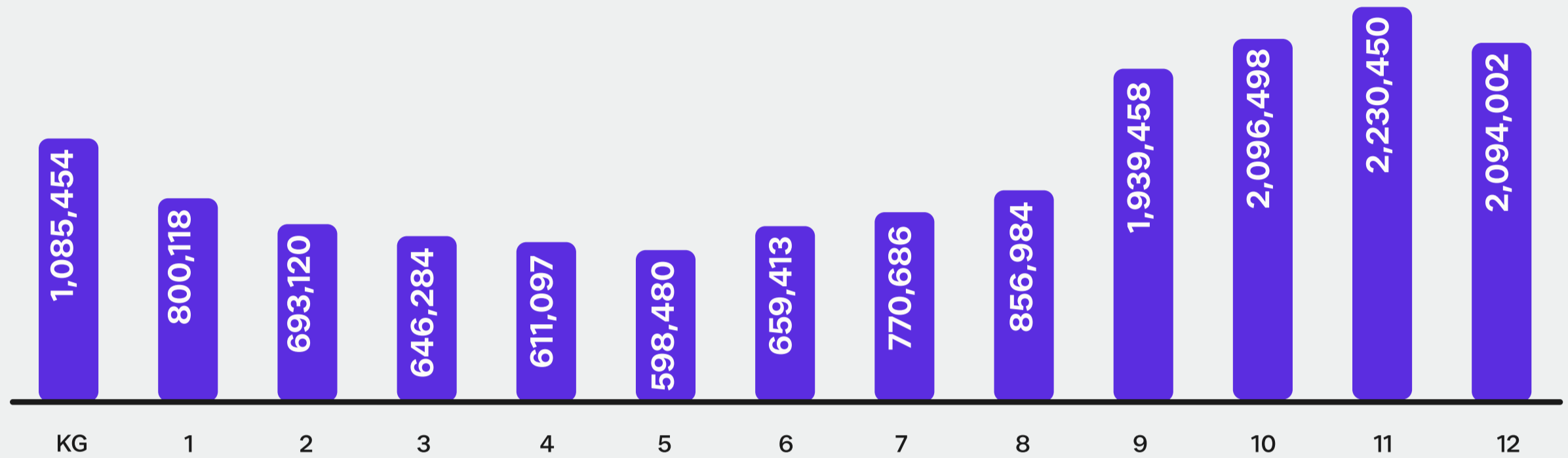
Grade Level	March 2021	March 2022	March 2023	Est. Rate of Change	Rate of Change
Kindergarten	15.8%	37.3%	40.5%	8.4%	25.3%
1st Grade	14.6%	32.0%	30.5%	-4.7%	15.0%
2nd Grade	13.2%	28.4%	26.6%	-6.2%	16.0%
3rd Grade	11.9%	26.4%	24.3%	-7.8%	16.1%
4th Grade	12.4%	25.5%	23.0%	-9.7%	15.1%
5th Grade	12.3%	26.6%	23.1%	-7.8%	16.1%

By Grades 6 - 12

Grade Level	March 2021	March 2022	March 2023	Est. Rate of Change	Rate of Change
6th Grade	15.6%	26.6%	23.1%	-13.3%	10.3%
7th Grade	18.5%	28.5%	26.9%	-5.7%	16.3%
8th Grade	17.6%	27.9%	28.5%	2.0%	24.6%
9th Grade	22.9%	34.1%	35.5%	3.9%	26.7%
10th Grade	22.9%	37.7%	37.2%	-1.6%	19.1%
11th Grade	22.2%	38.3%	38.7%	1.0%	21.4%
12th Grade	21.5%	40.5%	39.2%	-3.4%	15.8%

Missed Learning Time

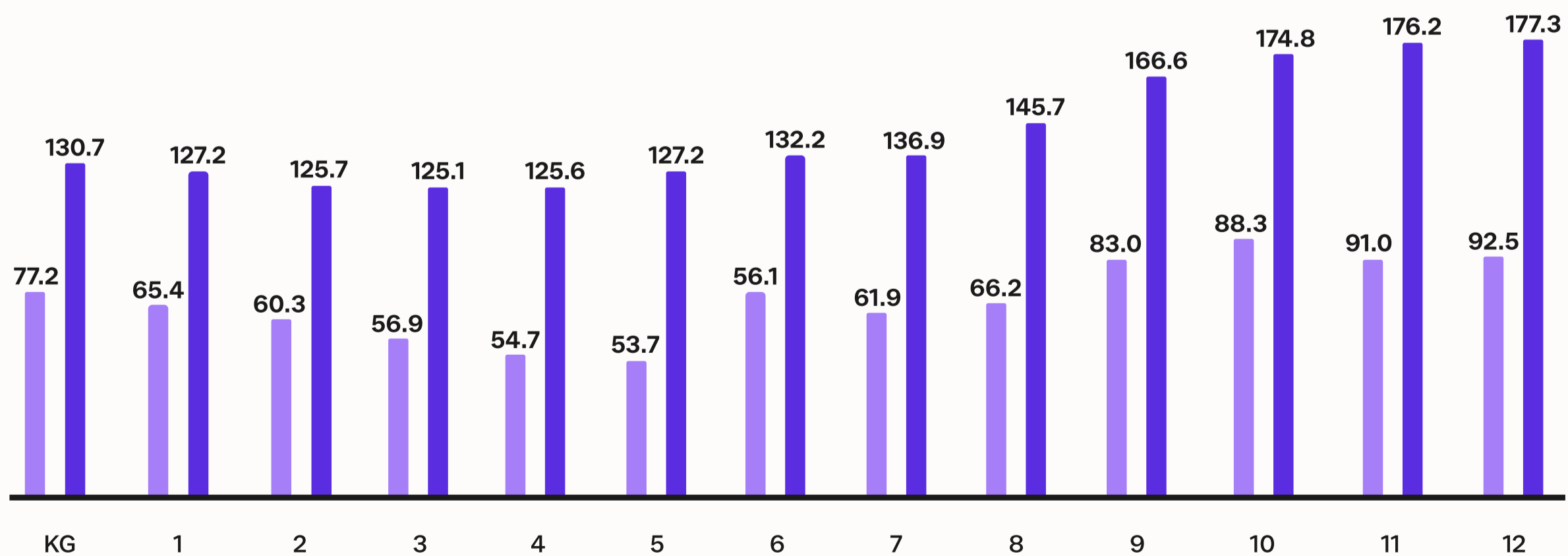
By Grade



Avg. Missed Learning Time

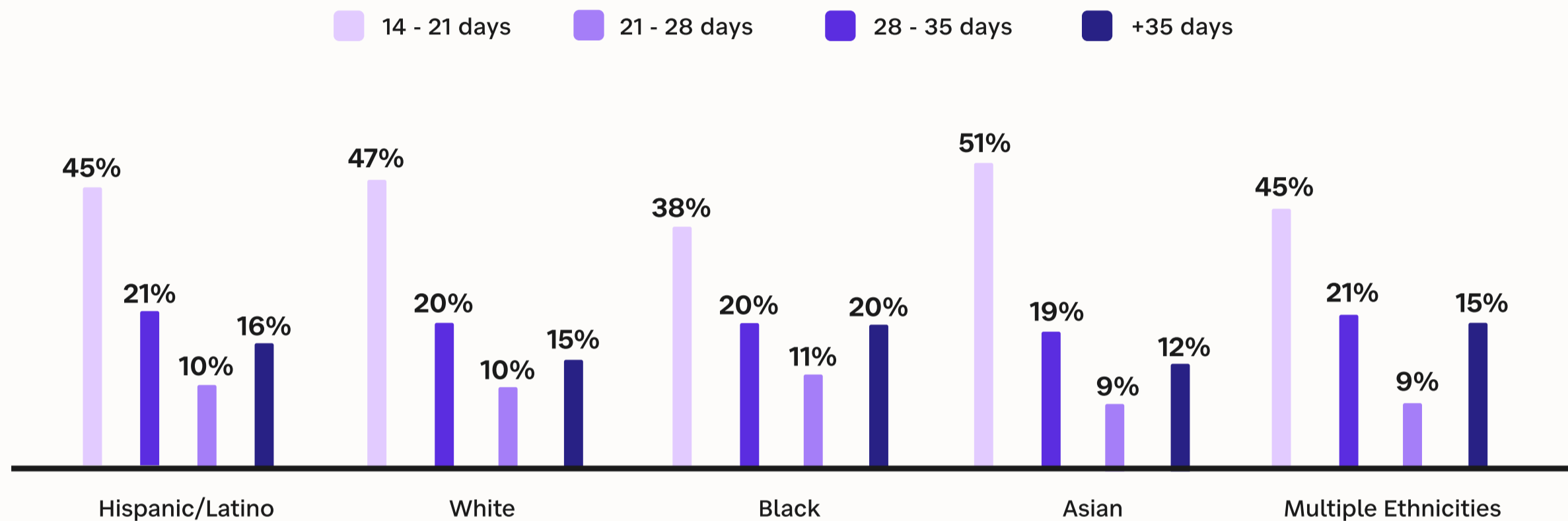
By Grade

■ Average Student
 ■ Chronic Student



Days Missed for Chronically Absent Students

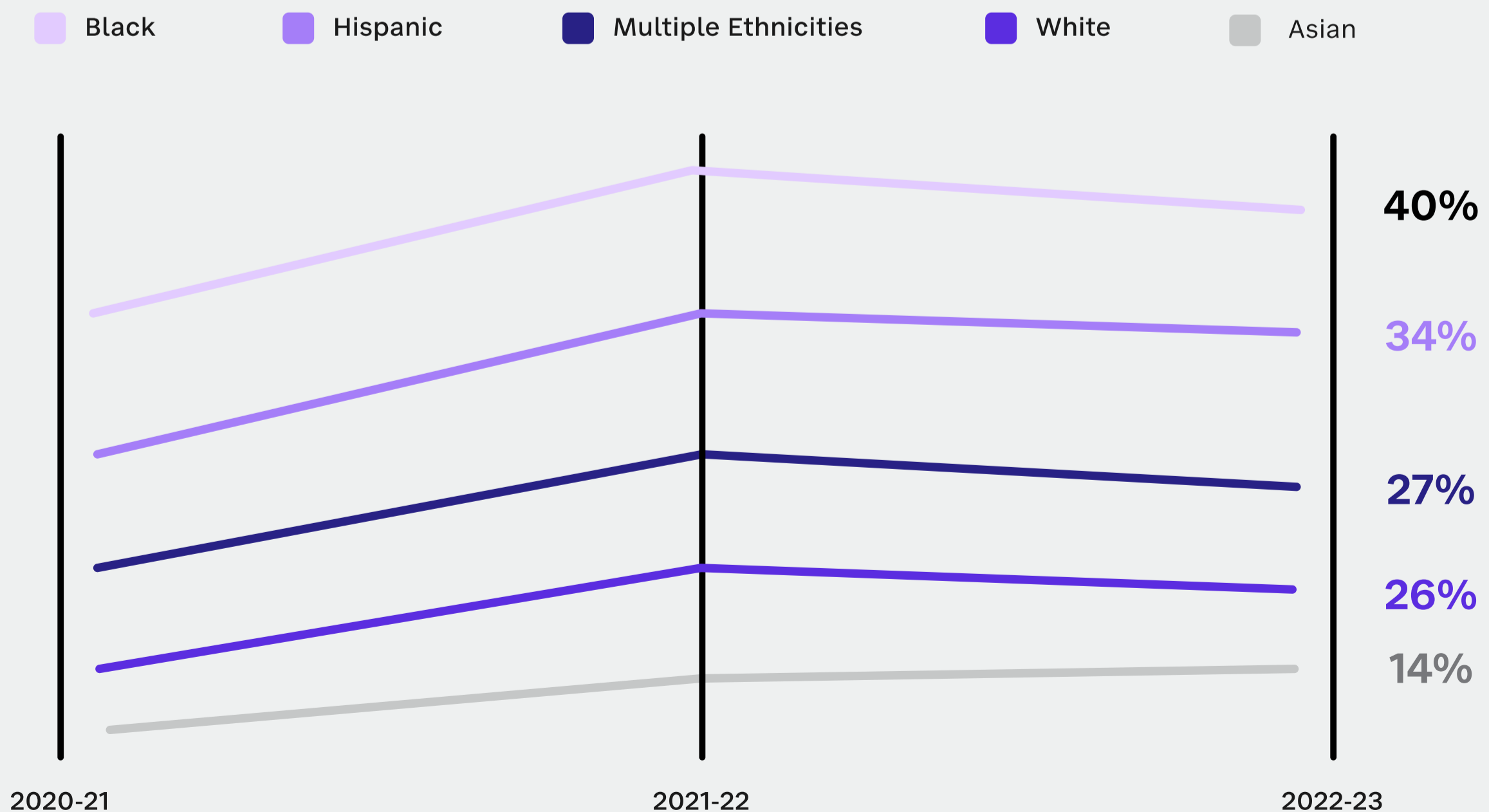
By Ethnicity



- Includes only chronic student population. Buckets represent the breakout of missed days for each subgroup
- Showing the 5 largest ethnic subgroups

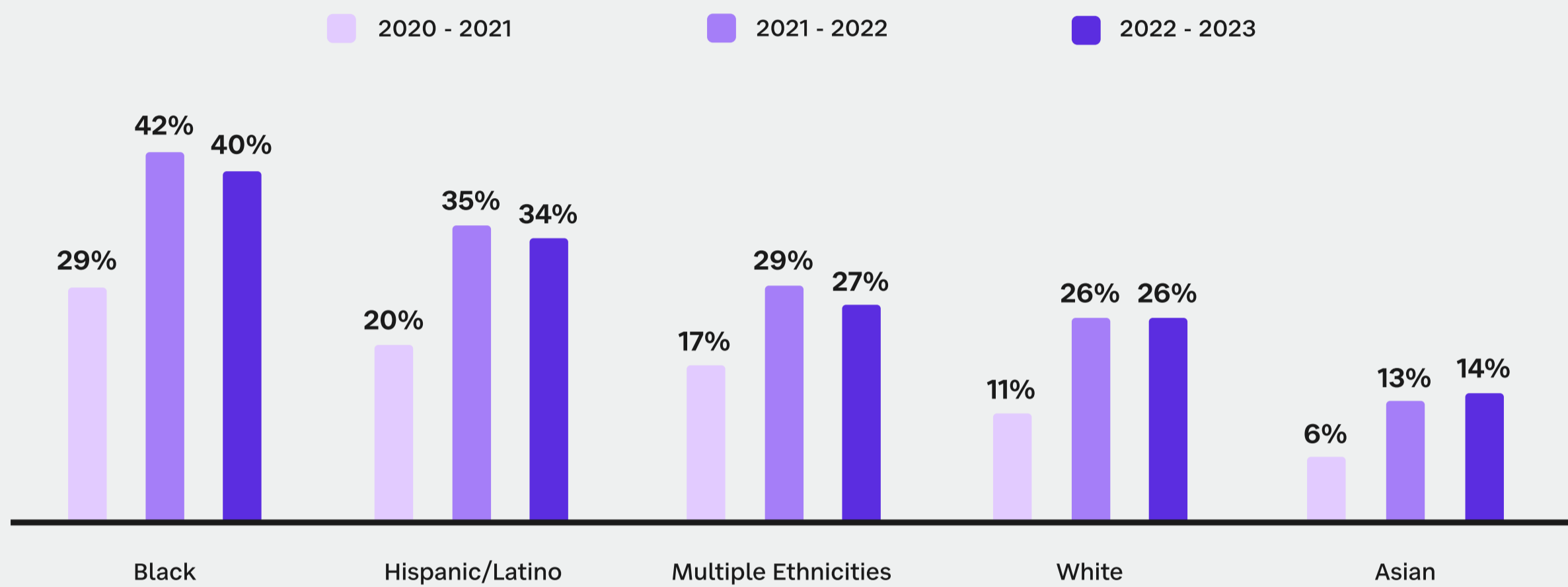
Absent Rate Trends

By Year



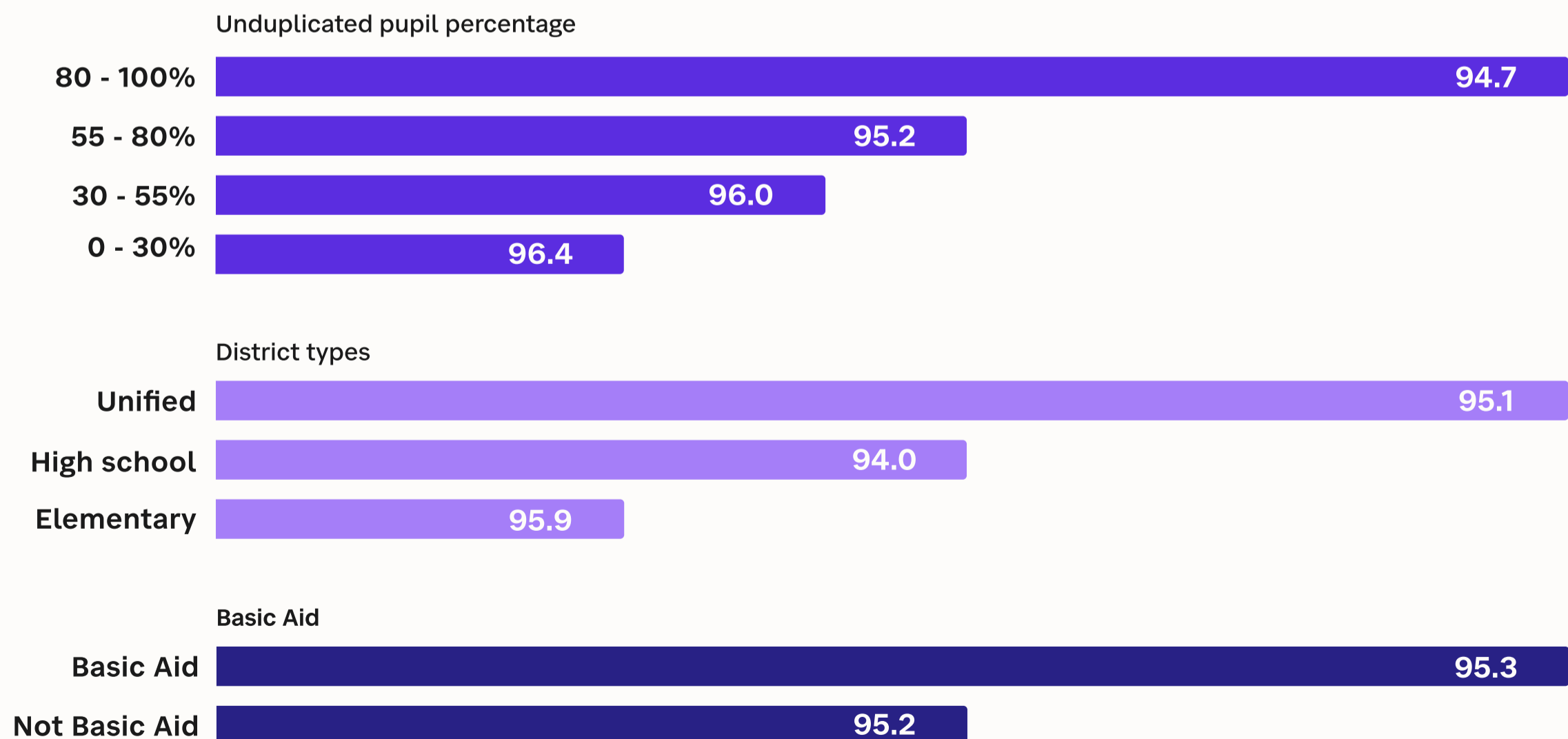
Top 5 Ethnicity Absence Rates

By Ethnicity



% of Attendance Rates

By Enrollment



Sources: Enrollment data and unduplicated pupil percentage come from the California Department of Education (CDE) CALPADS UPC Source Files (K-12), 2016-17—2018-19. ADA and district type data come from the Standardized Account Code Structure (SACS) Unaudited Actual Data Sets, 2016-17—2018-19. Basic Aid data comes from a School District LCFF Calculation, 2019-20 P-2 Apportionment file obtained directly from the CDE. From PACE Report March 2022.

Family Outreach and Involvement is an **Equalizer**



Equity and inclusion for every student is the opportunity for all to succeed. In track, each runner starts in a different spot. But, everyone will run the exact same distance on the field.

Including all families throughout our students' journey will help everyone complete their tasks and succeed.

Education is a **Marathon, Not a Sprint**

Students don't all start at the same place in K-12: this illustration has four students starting at different places for a marathon.

For students in the back, they may have to run farther and faster to catch up with those who started in front. Sometimes they get lost in the large group, but with focus and support they will reach their goal.



Student Group Analysis

The first chart shows the change in chronic rates for Emergent Bilingual (EB) vs. non-EB students. Both subgroups saw similar decreases in chronic rates

The next chart shows the change in chronic rates for Free & Reduced Lunch. The population that pays for lunch saw a decrease in chronic rates, while the Free & Reduced lunch population saw a slight increase

The following chart shows the change in chronic rates for students in Foster Care. Both this population and the permanent housing populations saw similar decreases in chronic rates

By English Language Learner vs Non English Language Learner Subgroups

Subgroups	March 2021	March 2022	March 2023	Increase in Chronic	Est. Rate of Change	Rate of Change
English Language Learner	21.7%	34.6%	33.6%	-1.0%	-3.0%	19.5%
Non English Language Learner	16.1%	32.3%	31.2%	-1.2%	-3.7%	20.5%

Chronic Rate Comparison Chart (By Free Reduced Lunch vs. Paid Lunch Subgroups)

Subgroups	March 2021	March 2022	March 2023	Increase in Chronic	Est. Rate of Change	Rate of Change
Free Reduced Lunch	22.7%	36.2%	37.5%	1.3%	3.6%	25.1%
Paid Lunch	9.8%	31.3%	23.7%	-7.6%	-24.3%	0.6%

Chronic Rate Comparison Chart (By Foster Care vs. Permanent Housing subgroups)

Subgroups	March 2021	March 2022	March 2023	Increase in Chronic	Est. Rate of Change	Rate of Change
Foster Care	20.1%	39.8%	35.2%	-4.5%	-11.4%	8.2%
Permanent Housing	12.7%	31.1%	26.8%	-4.3%	-13.9%	11.2%

Communication

Design a Clear and Relevant Message

- Share your priorities: make them a priority for your team and families
- Make it clear and memorable—short sentences, bullet points, graphics. SchoolStatus has easy-to-use templates to help you design!
- Make it understandable—remember different cultures and home languages. SchoolStatus automatically translates messages into the families' preferred language

Meet Families Where They Are

- SchoolStatus allows families to choose how, where, and in what language they want to receive messages
- Continually work to expand the audience your message reaches

Engagement Builds Stronger Relationships

- Invite all families into your school community
- Never underestimate the power of positive communication

Consistency is Memorable

- Reusing similar designs and familiar messages help people identify you
- Repetition helps people remember you



Increased Communication Makes an Impact

Our new partners saw increased learning time this year!

Below you will see the information for the Unduplicated Pupil (UDP) population in large urban and suburban districts, as well as small suburban and rural districts. The UDP count refers to students who are in any of the following categories: Emergent Bilingual, meeting income or socio-economic eligibility for free or reduced-price meals, and students in the foster care system. Each student is counted once even if they are part of more than one category.

These districts improved their attendance and learning time by implementing our attendance management solutions.

SchoolStatus Attend is the most effective way for a school district to tackle chronic absenteeism. The data-driven attendance management platform and processes provide automatic interventions and positive reinforcement to support student success, increase daily attendance, and reduce administrative overhead.

Our expert implementation team sets up all processes quickly to ensure that districts have access to accurate data and can send consistent interventions at the most effective times. By using automated and scheduled outreach throughout the school year, administrators can reduce the time spent on attendance management by up to 75%. School and district leaders can rely on SchoolStatus to provide effective tracking and outreach to all families in the district. By focusing on proactive outreach instead of punitive measures, SchoolStatus Attend sees 54% of at-risk kids returning to school after their initial contact.

Schedule a personalized demo today to learn how SchoolStatus Attend can support your district.

[Request a Demo](#)

