

# National K-12 Attendance Data Insights





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Chronic student absenteeism remains a significant challenge facing U.S. K-12 education, with impacts on academic achievement and long-term economic outcomes. However, data provides a pathway for developing evidence-based solutions to improve attendance rates and re-engage students.

This report includes national attendance data sourced from [FutureEd](#), [Return to Learn](#), and [The New York Times](#), which are based on reported numbers from state education departments. These national averages are compared against a dataset from SchoolStatus, encompassing close to one million K-12 students in 118 U.S. districts that employ proactive, positive attendance management strategies and tools.

This report looks at attendance data from 2021-22, 2022-23, and 2023-24 school years, comparing performance from September to February across two core metrics:

- 1. Chronic Absenteeism Rate** = Percentage of students missing 10% or more of the school year
- 2. Attendance Rate** = Percentage of students attending versus total instructional days

The data is analyzed across multiple dimensions—district size, grade levels, and student ethnicities—to identify patterns and areas requiring focused interventions. The report paints a clear, objective picture of where chronic absenteeism persists and its varying impacts. This evidence-based understanding is crucial for implementing preventative measures, early interventions, and intensive support systems tailored to the specific needs of students, families, and schools.

While the findings reveal areas of concern, such as distressingly high chronic absence rates among certain grades and student populations, the data also highlights opportunities for targeted interventions and measures progress for districts that implement these strategies year-over-year. With this level of real-world evidence, stakeholders can pinpoint the students and communities most in need of focused strategies and resources.

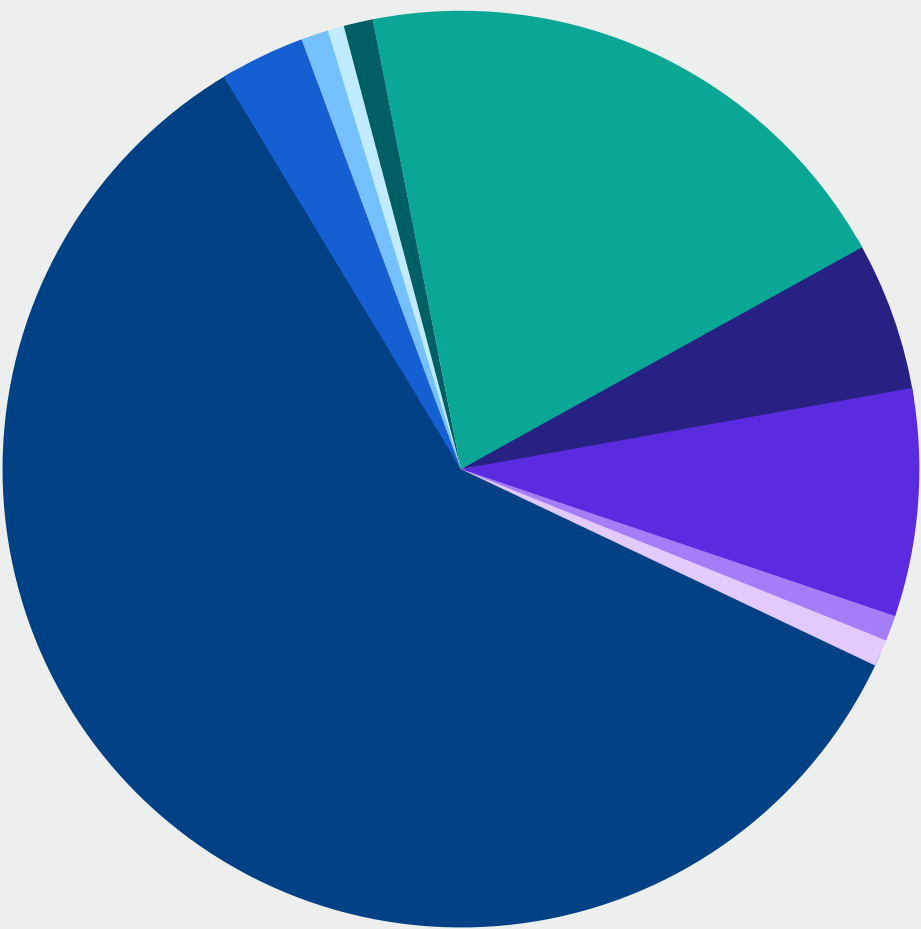
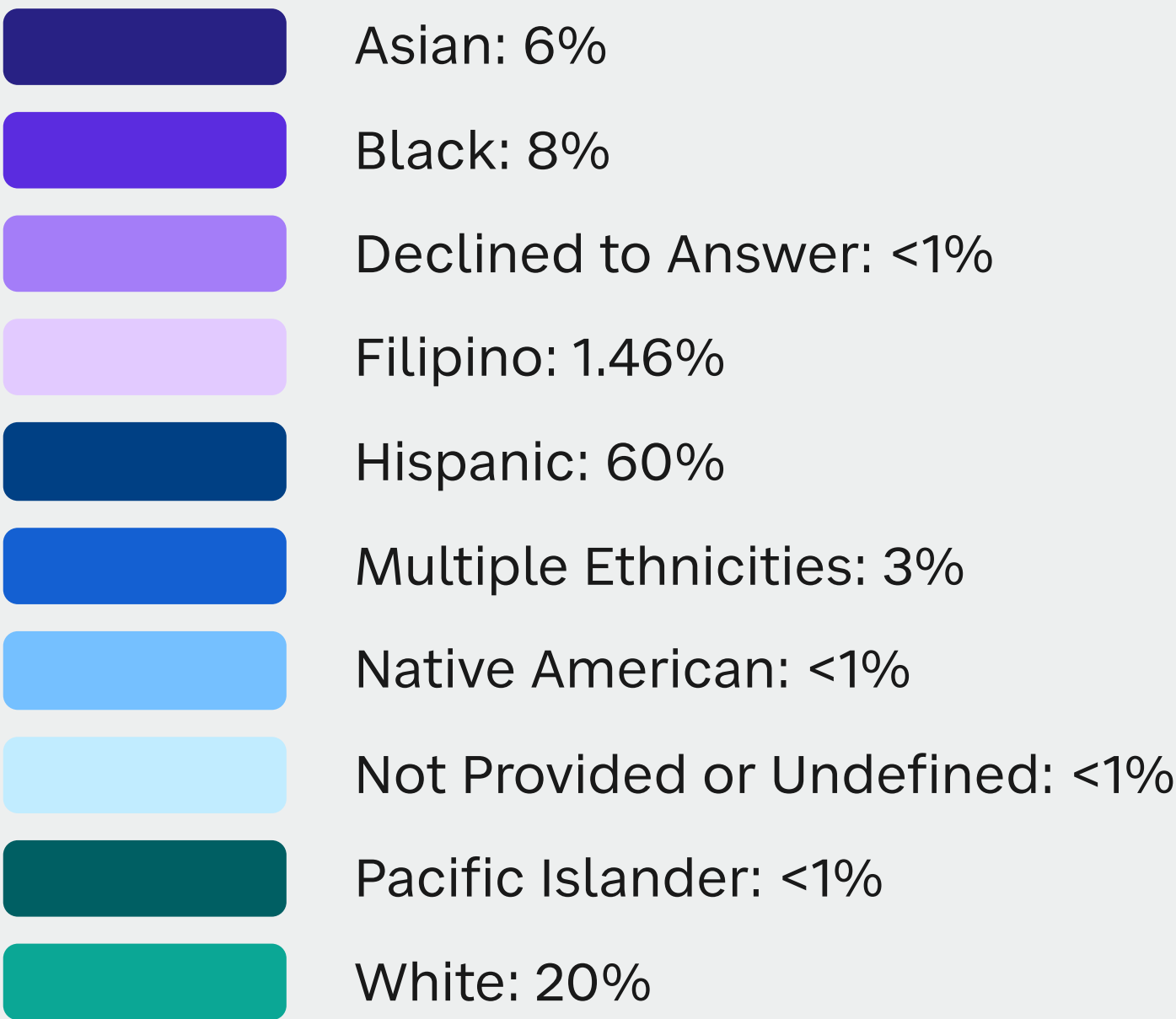
**For further analysis plus strategies shown to improve attendance in districts throughout the U.S., download [Navigating Absenteeism in 2024](#).**





## Student Demographics

The aggregate dataset covers 998,007 students for the 2023-24 school year to date and very similar demographics for the two years prior. This chart breaks down the student population by ethnicity, with Hispanic students comprising the largest group at 59.6%. Rate of change calculations in this report account for slight fluctuations in student enrollment numbers.





# Chronic Absenteeism: 2021-23

## Chronic Absenteeism Rates by State

This table shows the chronic absenteeism rates based on state reporting for 2021-22 and 2022-23, revealing wide variances in year-over-year progress across different states/regions in reducing chronic absence.

State	2021-22	2022-23	Rate Change* 21-22 to 22-23
Alabama	17.90%	17.90%	0.00%
Alaska	48.60%	45%	-7.41%
Arizona	32%	28.10%	-12.19%
Arkansas	27%	Not reported	N/A
California	30%	24.90%	-17.00%
Colorado	35.50%	31.10%	-11.9%
Connecticut	23.70%	20%	-15.61%
Delaware	24.80%	20.80%	-16.13%
District of Columbia	48.10%	43.60%	-9.36%
Florida	32.30%	30.90%	-4.33%
Georgia	24.40%	22.90%	-5.37%
Hawaii	36.90%	30.40%	-17.62%
Idaho	20.60%	17.10%	-16.99%
Illinois	29.80%	28.30%	-5.03%
Indiana	21.10%	19.30%	-8.53%
Iowa	21%	25.60%	+21.90%
Kansas	25.40%	21.80%	-14.17%

State	2021-22	2022-23	Rate Change* 21-22 to 22-23
Kentucky	Not reported	28.80%	N/A
Louisiana	19.40%	23.30%	+20.10%
Maine	31.50%	27.30%	-13.33%
Maryland	30.90%	29.80%	-3.56%
Massachusetts	27.70%	22.20%	-18.38%
Michigan	38.50%	30.80%	-20.00%
Minnesota	30%	Not reported	N/A
Mississippi	28%	23.90%	-14.64%
Missouri	23.80%	23.40%	-1.68%
Montana	38%	Not reported	N/A
Nebraska	23.90%	22.40%	-6.28%
Nevada	36%	34.90%	-3.06%
New Hampshire	34%	Not reported	N/A
New Jersey	18.10%	16.60%	-8.29%
New Mexico	40.40%	39.20%	-2.97%
New York	37.80%	34.10%	-9.79%
North Carolina	31.20%	26.70%	-14.42%

State	2021-22	2022-23	Rate Change* 21-22 to 22-23
North Dakota	22%	20%	-9.09%
Ohio	30.20%	26.80%	-11.26%
Oklahoma	19.50%	20%	+2.56%
Oregon	36.10%	38.10%	+5.54%
Pennsylvania	26%	22%	-15.38%
Rhode Island	34.10%	28.90%	-15.25%
South Carolina	20.30%	24.70%	+21.67%
South Dakota	22%	21%	-4.55%
Tennessee	20.30%	20.2%	-.49%
Texas	25.70%	Not reported	N/A
Utah	27.20%	25.20%	-7.35%
Vermont	35%	Not reported	N/A
Virginia	20.10%	19.30%	-3.98%
Washington	32.80%	30.30%	-7.62%
West Virginia	29.10%	27.60%	-5.15%
Wisconsin	22.70%	19.50%	-14.10%
Wyoming	37%	Not reported	N/A
National	27.85%	27.07%	-7.22%

\*Rate of change is the percent change in the number of students, adjusted for enrollment  
Source: State-reported data compiled by FutureEd and Return to Learn

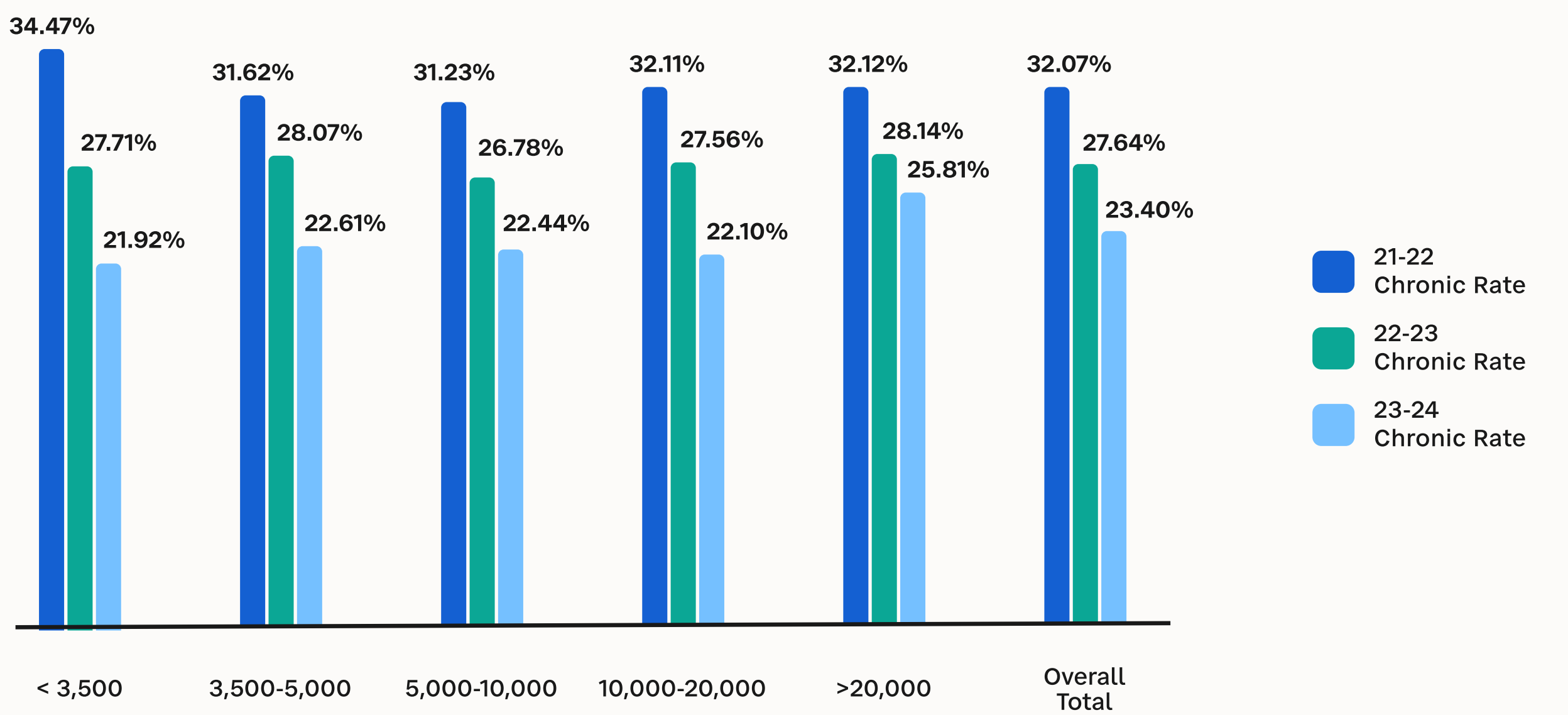
This state-specific absenteeism data was compiled by Return to Learn and FutureEd based on reported numbers from state education departments. This national data is used as a benchmark against which to measure the data set from SchoolStatus. At the time of this report, national data is publicly available for all 50 states and the District of Columbia for the 2021-2022 school year. For 2022-23, it is available for 44 states and D.C., due to delays in state reporting.

# SchoolStatus District Results Over Time

The following data was compiled by SchoolStatus based on results from 118 districts over a three year period.

## Chronic Absenteeism by District Size

While small districts began with higher chronic absenteeism (34.47%), they showed considerable improvement (21.92%) compared with larger districts (20K+ students). Chronic absenteeism rates for districts between 3,500-20,000 students showed similar trends in 2021-22 and 2023-24 numbers, though districts with 5-10K students improved more rapidly from 2021-22 to 2022-23.



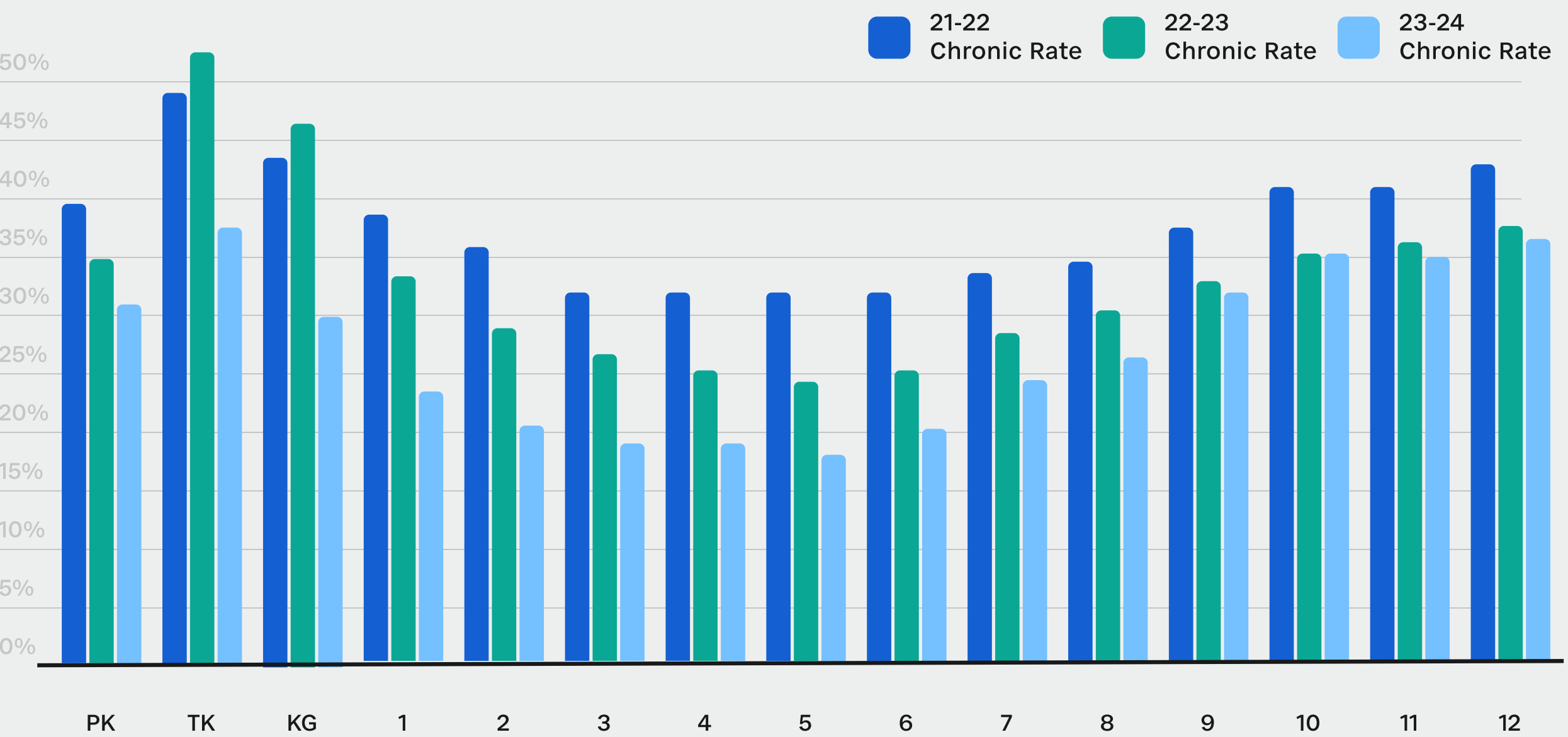
District Size	21-22 Enrollment	22-23 Enrollment	23-24 Enrollment	21-22 Chronic Rate	22-23 Chronic Rate	23-24 Chronic Rate	21-22 to 22-23 Chronic Rate of Change	22-23 to 23-24 Chronic Rate of Change	21-24 Chronic Rate of Change	Projected 22-23 to 23-24 Chronic Rate of Change
< 3500	75,414	75,850	75,611	34.47%	27.71%	21.92%	-19.60%	-20.88%	-36.39%	-7.19%
3,500 – 5,000	76,746	75,826	74,800	31.62%	28.07%	22.61%	-11.24%	-19.46%	-28.51%	-5.77%
5,000 – 10,000	205,890	204,054	201,621	31.23%	26.78%	22.44%	-14.26%	-16.21%	-28.16%	-2.52%
10,000 – 20,000	319,131	319,315	322,658	32.11%	27.56%	22.10%	-14.18%	-19.81%	-31.18%	-6.12%
> 20,000	320,996	324,704	323,317	32.12%	28.14%	25.81%	-12.38%	-8.27%	-19.63%	5.42%
Overall Total	998,177	999,749	998,007	32.07%	27.64%	23.40%	-13.82%	-15.35%	-27.05%	-1.66%

SCHOOLSTATUS DATA SET

ESTIMATED FOR NON-SCHOOLSTATUS DISTRICTS

# Chronic Absenteeism by Grade Level

The data indicates chronic absenteeism rates are higher among higher grade levels, peaking at 31.84% for 12th graders in 2023-24 year-to-date versus just 15.88% for 5th graders.



Grade	21-22 Enrollment	22-23 Enrollment	23-24 Enrollment	21-22 Chronic Rate	22-23 Chronic Rate	23-24 Chronic Rate	21-22 to 22-23 Chronic Rate of Change	22-23 to 23-24 Chronic Rate of Change	3 Year Chronic Rate of Change	Projected 22-23 to 23-24 Chronic Rate of Change
PK	12,437	12,850	13,798	34.10%	30.12%	26.69%	11.68%	11.39%	-21.74%	-2.3%
TK	7,537	10,779	15,386	43.13%	46.10%	32.54%	6.87%	-29.41%	-24.55%	-15.72%
KG	68,559	68,618	63,005	38.2%	37.03%	26.04%	-2.6%	-29.67%	-31.50%	-15.98%
1	67,972	68,921	66,401	33.16%	28.98%	20.61%	-12.61%	-28.89%	-37.85%	-15.20%
2	69,617	68,726	69,605	30.10%	25.20%	17.97%	-16.28%	-28.66%	-40.28%	-14.97%
3	69,574	70,608	69,437	28.12%	23.12%	16.51%	-17.76%	-28.59%	-41.28%	-14.90%
4	70,896	70,491	71,284	27.52%	21.99%	16.38%	-20.11%	-25.49%	-40.48%	-11.80%
5	72,020	71,612	71,017	27.03%	21.13%	15.88%	-21.83%	-24.84%	-41.25%	-11.15%
6	71,998	72,292	72,179	27.94%	21.97%	17.54%	-21.37%	-20.14%	-37.21%	-6.45%
7	69,443	69,802	70,158	29.23%	24.82%	21.33%	15.09%	14.04%	-27.02%	-0.35%
8	72,939	70,010	70,220	29.91%	26.37%	22.98%	-11.82%	-12.85%	-23.15%	+0.84%
9	89,855	89,184	86,975	32.53%	28.71%	27.74%	-11.72%	-3.38%	-14.71%	+10.31%
10	89,622	87,660	87,676	35.83%	30.71%	30.50%	-14.29%	-0.68%	-14.87%	+13.01%
11	38,788	86,122	85,437	36.23%	31.24%	30.37%	-13.76%	-2.81%	-16.18%	+10.88%
12	81,920	83,074	85,429	37.40%	32.63%	31.84%	-12.77%	-2.41%	-14.87%	+11.28%
Overall Total	998,177	999,749	998,007	32.07%	27.64%	23.40%	-13.82%	-15.35%	-27.05%	-1.66%

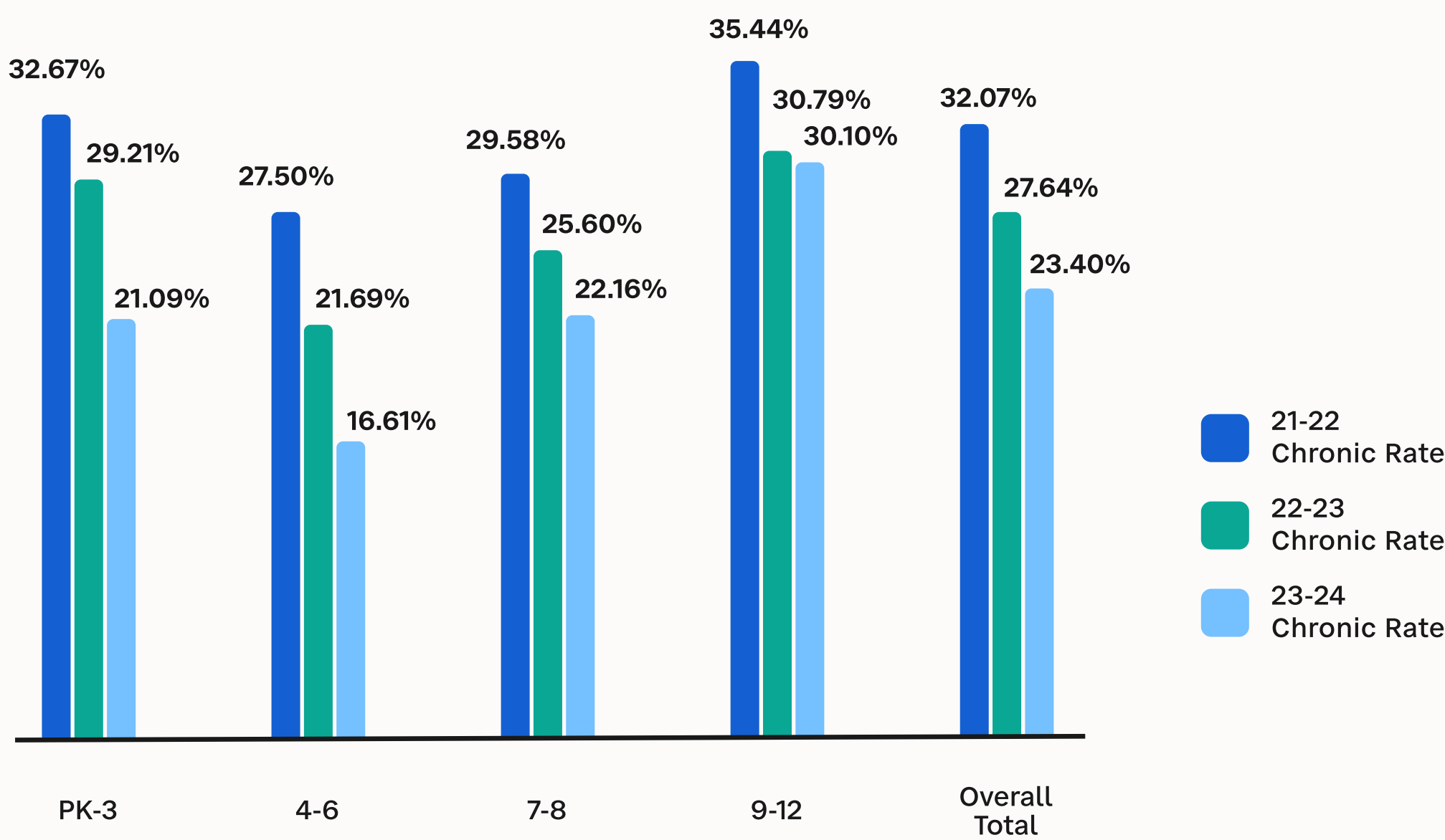
SCHOOLSTATUS DATA SET

ESTIMATED FOR NON-SCHOOLSTATUS DISTRICTS





## Chronic Absenteeism by Grade Band



Grade Level	21-22 Enrollment	22-23 Enrollment	23-24 Enrollment	21-22 Chronic Rate	22-23 Chronic Rate	23-24 Chronic Rate	21-22 to 22-23 Chronic Rate of Change	22-23 to 23-24 Chronic Rate of Change	21-22 to 23-24 Chronic Rate of Change	Projected 22-23 to 23-24 Chronic Rate of Change
PK-3	295,696	299,502	297,632	32.67%	29.21%	21.09%	-10.59%	-27.82%	-35.46%	-14.13%
4-6	214,914	214,395	214,480	27.50%	21.69%	16.61%	-21.10%	-23.45%	-39.61%	-9.76%
7-8	142,382	139,812	140,378	29.58%	25.60%	22.16%	-13.46%	-13.43%	-24.08%	.26%
9-12	345,185	346,040	345,517	35.443%	30.79%	30.10%	-13.13%	-2.22%	-15.05%	11.47%
Overall Total	998,177	999,749	998,007	32.07%	27.64%	23.40%	-13.82%	-15.35%	-27.05%	-1.66%

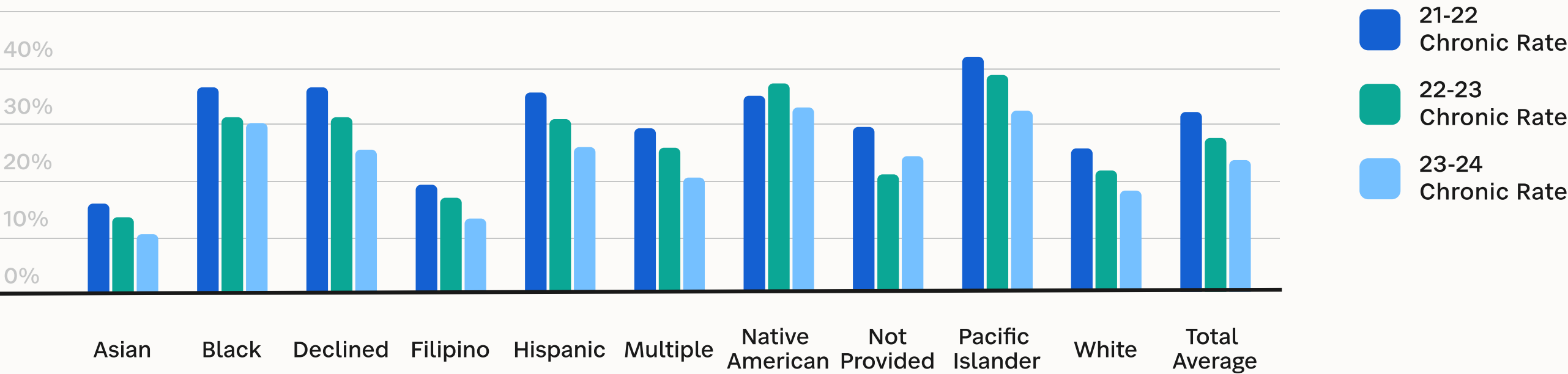
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# Chronic Absenteeism by Ethnicity

Disaggregating by ethnicity uncovers attendance discrepancies, with Black, Hispanic, Native American, and Pacific Islander students being most impacted by chronic absenteeism in 2022-23.



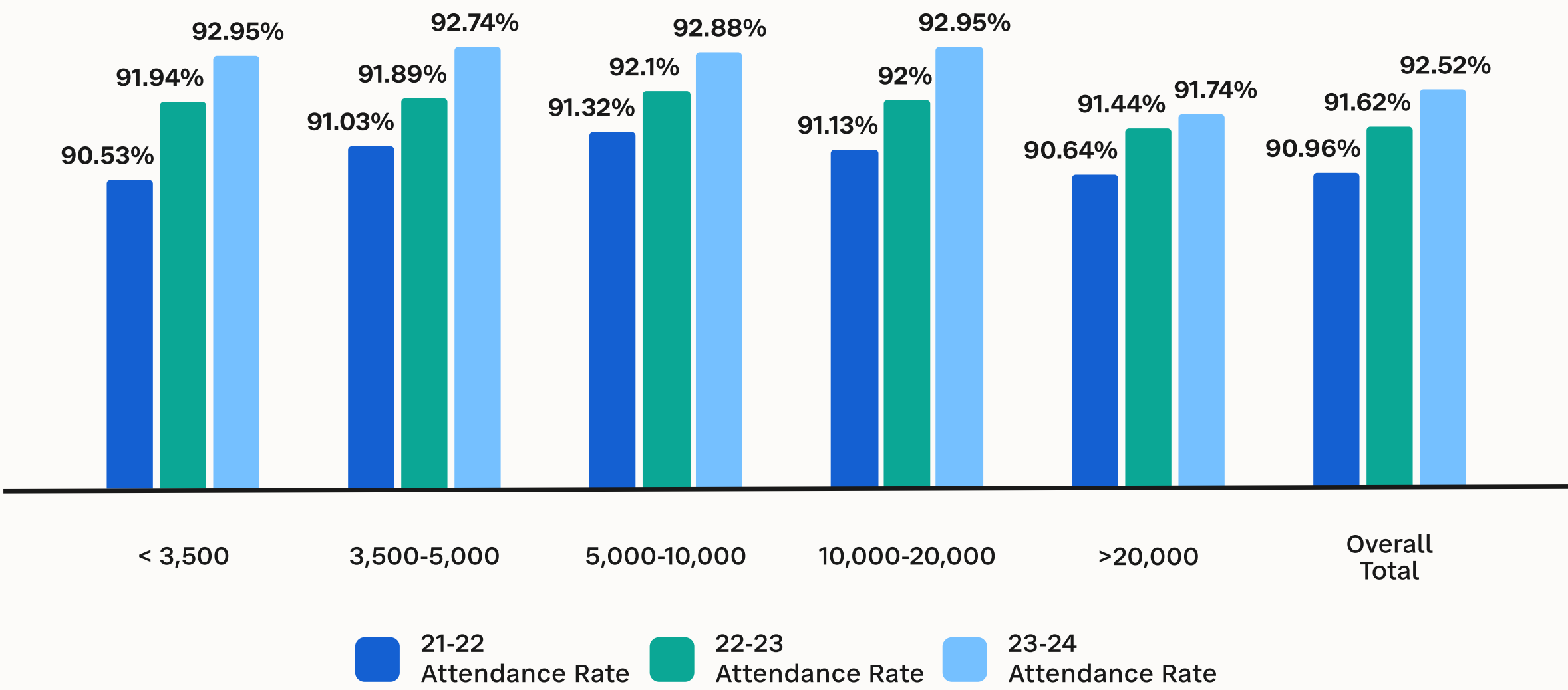
Ethnicity	21-22 Enrollment	22-23 Enrollment	23-24 Enrollment	21-22 Chronic Rate	22-23 Chronic Rate	23-24 Chronic Rate	21-22 to 22-23 Chronic Rate of Change	22-23 to 23-24 Chronic Rate of Change	21-24 Chronic Rate of Change	Projected 22-23 to 23-24 Chronic Rate of Change
Asian	59,097	61,053	62,679	15.15%	13.24%	10.49%	-12.58%	-20.76%	-30.73%	-7.07%
Black	81,723	85,665	80,275	36.38%	31.18%	30.10%	-14.29%	-3.46%	-17.26%	10.23%
Declined	4,323	4,629	4,971	36.20%	30.61%	25.49%	-15.44%	-16.74%	-29.59%	-3.05%
Filipino	14,619	14,109	13,629	19.11%	16.76%	13.16%	-12.33%	-21.48%	-31.17%	-7.79%
Hispanic	582,241	592,073	594,813	35.81%	30.87%	25.72%	-13.80%	-16.68%	-28.18%	-2.99%
Multiple Ethnicities	26,259	25,835	31,251	29.20%	25.76%	20.48%	-11.76%	-20.52%	-29.87%	-6.83%
Native American	10,442	5,007	5,445	35.05%	37.11%	32.84%	5.87%	-11.51%	-6.31%	2.18%
Not Provided	1,146	1,344	1,618	29.49%	20.91%	24.23%	-29.11%	15.88%	-17.86%	29.57%
Pacific Islander	4,906	4,688	4,755	41.52%	38.95%	32.47%	-6.19%	-16.64%	-21.80%	-2.95%
Undefined	2,807	2,196	1,705	25.61%	28.19%	25.57%	10.05%	-9.28%	-0.17%	4.41%
White	210,614	203,150	196,866	25.73%	21.54%	18.36%	-16.29%	-14.73%	-28.63%	-1.04%
Overall Total	998,177	999,749	998,007	32.07%	27.64%	23.40%	-13.82%	-15.35%	-27.05%	-1.66%



# Attendance Rates: 2021-2024

## Attendance Rates by District Size

Examining attendance rates shows an overall improvement from 90.96% in 2021-22 to 92.52% in March of 2024. Districts under 3,500 students saw the most significant improvement over three years. Districts under 20K average almost 93% attendance to date in 2024. Districts over 20K are seeing slower improvement overall, but still increasing attendance each year.

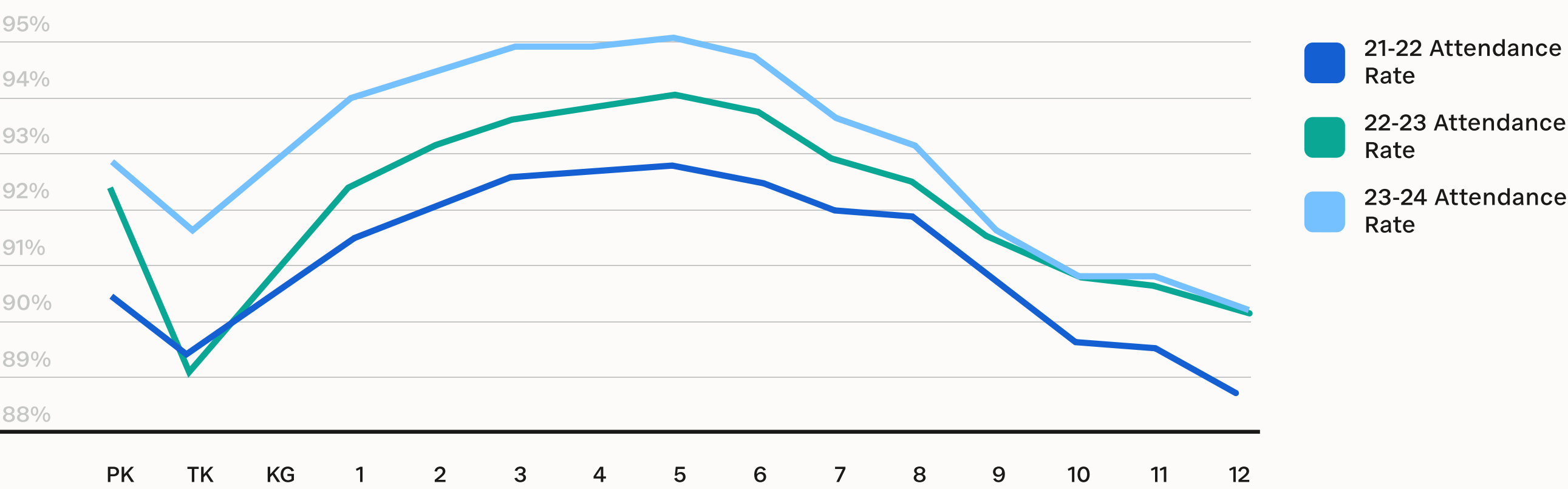


District Size	21-22 Enrollment	22-23 Enrollment	23-24 Enrollment	21-22 Attendance Rate	22-23 Attendance Rate	23-24 Attendance Rate	21-22 to 22-23 Attendance Rate of Change	22-23 to 23-24 Attendance Rate of Change	21-22 to 23-24 Attendance Rate of Change
< 3500	75,414	75,850	75,611	90.53%	91.94%	92.95%	1.55%	1.10%	2.67%
3500 - 5000	76,746	75,826	74,800	91.03%	91.89%	92.74%	0.94%	0.93%	1.88%
5000 - 10000	205,890	204,054	201,621	91.32%	92.10%	92.88%	0.85%	0.85%	1.70%
10000 - 20000	319,131	319,315	322,658	91.13%	92.00%	92.95%	0.96%	1.03%	2.00%
> 20000	320,996	324,704	323,317	90.64%	91.44%	91.74%	0.88%	0.33%	1.21%
Overall Total	998,177	999,749	998,007	90.96%	91.82%	92.52%	0.95%	0.76%	1.72%



# Attendance Rates by Grade Level

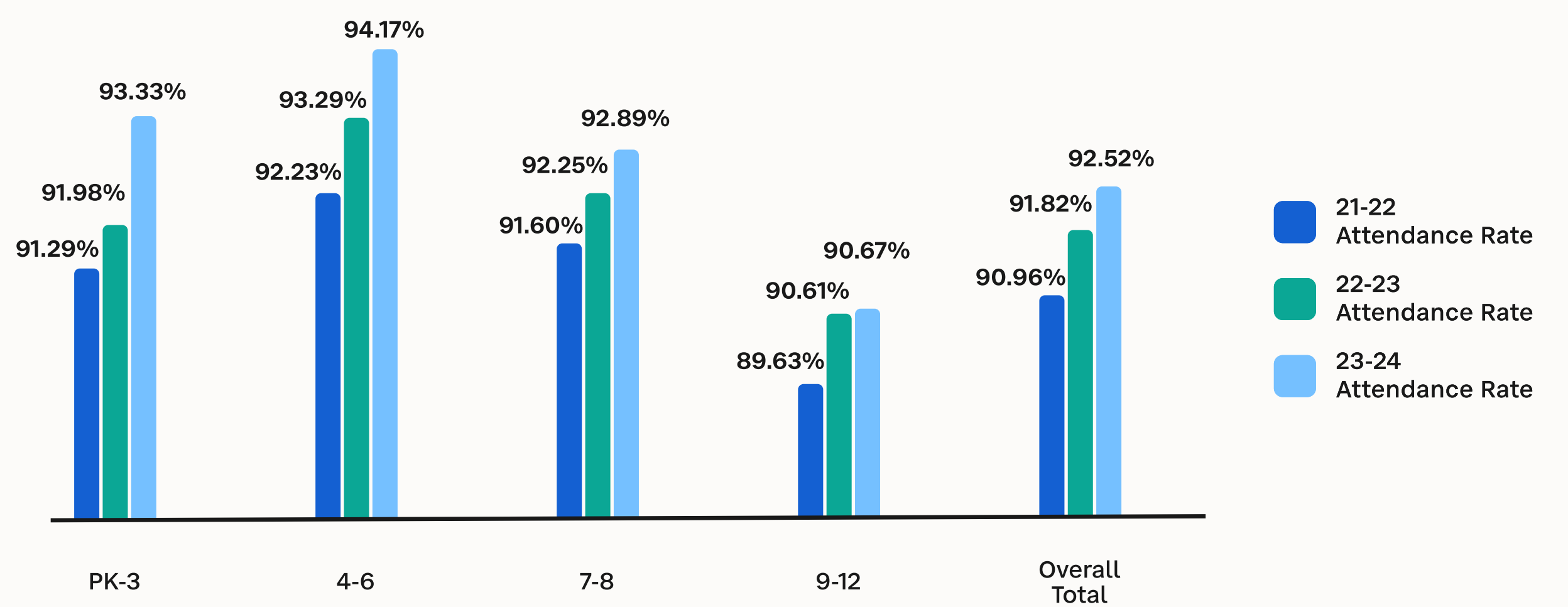
Attendance rates are highest among elementary grades with 3rd, 4th, and 5th grade all coming in at over 94% in 2023-24 year-to-date. Attendance tends to drop significantly in high school with 12th grade at just 90.14%.



Grade	21-22 Enrollment	22-23 Enrollment	23-24 Enrollment	21-22 Attendance Rate	22-23 Attendance Rate	23-24 Attendance Rate	21-22 to 22-23 Attendance Rate of Change	22-23 to 23-24 Attendance Rate of Change	21-22 to 23-24 Attendance Rate of Change
PK	12,437	12,850	13,798	90.93%	92.03%	92.41%	1.20%	0.41%	1.62%
TK	7,537	10,779	15,386	89.36%	89.08%	91.32%	-0.31%	2.51%	2.20%
KG	68,559	67,618	63,005	90.30%	90.64%	92.40%	0.37%	1.94%	2.33%
1	67,972	68,921	66,401	91.18%	91.96%	93.39%	0.86%	1.55%	2.42%
2	69,617	68,726	69,605	91.73%	92.64%	93.85%	0.99%	1.31%	2.31%
3	69,574	70,608	69,437	92.16%	93.03%	94.18%	0.95%	1.23%	2.20%
4	70,896	70,491	71,284	92.26%	93.28%	94.20%	1.10%	0.98%	2.10%
5	72,020	71,612	71,017	92.33%	93.43%	94.33%	1.20%	0.96%	2.17%
6	71,998	72,292	72,179	92.12%	93.16%	93.98%	1.14%	0.87%	2.02%
7	69,443	69,802	70,158	91.67%	92.47%	93.12%	0.87%	0.71%	1.58%
8	72,939	70,010	70,220	91.52%	92.04%	92.67%	0.56%	0.68%	1.25%
9	89,855	89,184	86,975	90.53%	91.22%	91.33%	0.76%	0.12%	0.88%
10	89,622	87,660	87,676	89.62%	90.63%	90.62%	1.13%	-0.01%	1.11%
11	83,788	86,122	85,437	89.49%	90.49%	90.60%	1.12%	0.12%	1.24%
12	81,920	83,074	85,429	88.80%	90.07%	90.14%	1.43%	0.07%	1.50%
Overall Total	998,177	999,749	998,007	90.96%	91.82%	92.52%	0.95%	0.76%	1.72%



# Attendance Rates by Grade Band



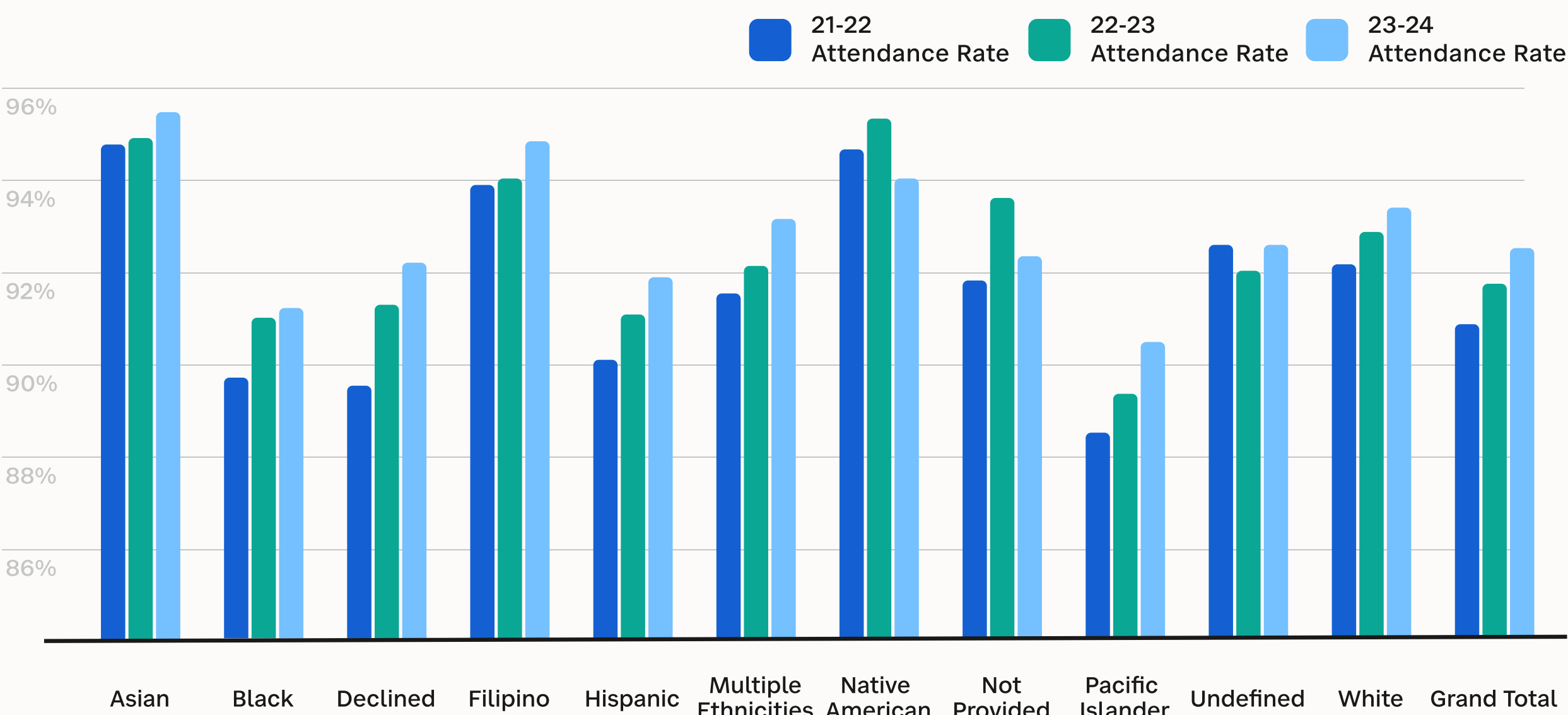
Grade Level	21-22 Enrollment	22-23 Enrollment	23-24 Enrollment	21-22 Attendance Rate	22-23 Attendance Rate	23-24 Attendance Rate	21-22 to 22-23 Attendance Rate of Change	22-23 to 23-24 Attendance Rate of Change	21-22 to 23-24 Attendance Rate of Change
PK-3	295,696	299,502	297,632	91.29%	91.98%	93.33%	0.76%	1.47%	2.24%
4-6	214,914	214,395	214,480	92.23%	93.29%	94.17%	1.15%	0.94%	2.10%
7-8	142,382	139,812	140,378	91.60%	92.25%	92.89%	0.72%	0.69%	1.42%
9-12	345,185	346,040	345,517	89.63%	90.61%	90.67%	1.10%	0.07%	1.16%
Overall Total	998,177	999,749	998,007	90.96%	91.82%	92.52%	0.95%	0.76%	1.72%





# Attendance Rates by Student Ethnicity

Asian students had the highest attendance rate at 95.57% in 2023-24 year-to-date, while Pacific Islander students had the lowest at 90.53%.



Ethnicity	21-22 Enrollment	22-23 Enrollment	23-24 Enrollment	21-22 Attendance Rate	22-23 Attendance Rate	21-22 to 22-23 Attendance Rate of Change	23-24 Attendance Rate	22-23 to 23-24 Attendance Rate of Change	21-22 to 23-24 Attendance Rate of Change
Asian	59,097	61,053	62,679	94.87%	95.00%	0.13%	95.57%	0.60%	0.73%
Black	81,723	85,665	80,275	89.69%	91.05%	1.51%	91.15%	0.12%	1.64%
Declined	4,323	4,629	4,971	89.58%	91.41%	2.05%	92.17%	0.83%	2.90%
Filipino	14,619	14,109	13,629	93.95%	94.08%	0.15%	94.84%	0.81%	0.96%
Hispanic	582,241	592,073	594,813	90.18%	91.17%	1.10%	92.00%	0.90%	2.02%
Multiple Ethnicities	26,259	25,835	31,251	91.64%	92.19%	0.61%	93.25%	1.14%	1.76%
Native American	10,442	5,007	5,445	90.35%	89.64%	-0.79%	90.05%	0.46%	-0.33%
Not Provided	1,146	1,344	1,618	91.88%	93.67%	1.95%	92.41%	-1.35%	0.58%
Pacific Islander	4,906	4,688	4,755	88.58%	89.49%	1.03%	90.53%	1.16%	2.20%
Undefined	2,807	2,196	1,705	92.66%	92.15%	-0.55%	92.58%	0.47%	-0.08%
White	210,614	203,150	196,866	92.26%	92.95%	0.75%	93.49%	0.58%	1.34%
Overall Total	998,177	999,749	998,007	90.96%	91.82%	0.95%	92.52%	0.76%	1.72%



# Key Observations

- Very large districts (20k+ students) are struggling to keep up with smaller districts and are improving at less than half the rates
- High school grade levels are seeing increases in chronic absenteeism and attendance rate drops
- Elementary grade levels are seeing significant improvement in attendance and reductions in chronic absenteeism compared to last year
- While there have been improvements in overall attendance for this current year, some populations continued to be the more impacted by chronic absenteeism. For example, chronic absenteeism rates for Black students seem to have plateaued compared to last year showing there is still work to do to make sure interventions are improving attendance for all students.



## About SchoolStatus

SchoolStatus is a unified K-12 platform for centralized school-home communication, data-driven attendance management, and streamlined educator development and feedback. We enable an integrated and impactful educational experience, from district leadership to families at home. With more than 200 million successful school-home interactions, and millions of users, SchoolStatus drives meaningful results for districts and schools across the United States.

**Learn how to get students back in class.**

**Download *Navigating Absenteeism in 2024* for strategies and tactics proven to increase attendance for districts across the U.S.**

[Download Now](#)