

PUBLIC SCHOOLS of
BROOKLINE



Attendance Update

3/7/2024

Attendance Goals

- To support **all** students in arriving to school on time every day.
- To accurately record the attendance of every student every day.
- To respond to attendance challenges at the same (early) time across schools using the best practices.
- To create consistency in how we communicate attendance expectations to all staff, students, and families across the district.

Attendance Laws and Best Practices

- All children between the ages of 6 and 16 **must** attend school (and are expected to attend school, and all scheduled classes, **every day**).
 - Schools must record the attendance of all students every day.
 - Guardians are legally required to ensure that their child(ren) attends school every day.
 - Schools should attempt to intervene **as soon as** attendance challenges are observed.

- [PSB Website](#)

Learning how to consistently attend school and class is one of the most important skills children develop during their education.

Students who consistently attend school are significantly more likely to perform well academically, develop meaningful relationships with students and adults, and learn important social-emotional skills (e.g., how to manage stress).

In contrast, students who have one or more absences a month are more likely to fall behind academically, feel disconnected from their peers and adults, and experience increased levels of stress, worry, and other challenging emotions. Because of this, supporting strong attendance is among our highest priorities as a district.

What is the PSB attendance policy?

As a reminder, all students in PSB are expected to attend school every day, arrive on time every day, stay for the full school day, and attend all scheduled classes.

According to the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education's (DESE) attendance Policy, a student must be at school, at a school-related activity, or receiving academic instruction for at least half (50%) the school day to be counted as present.

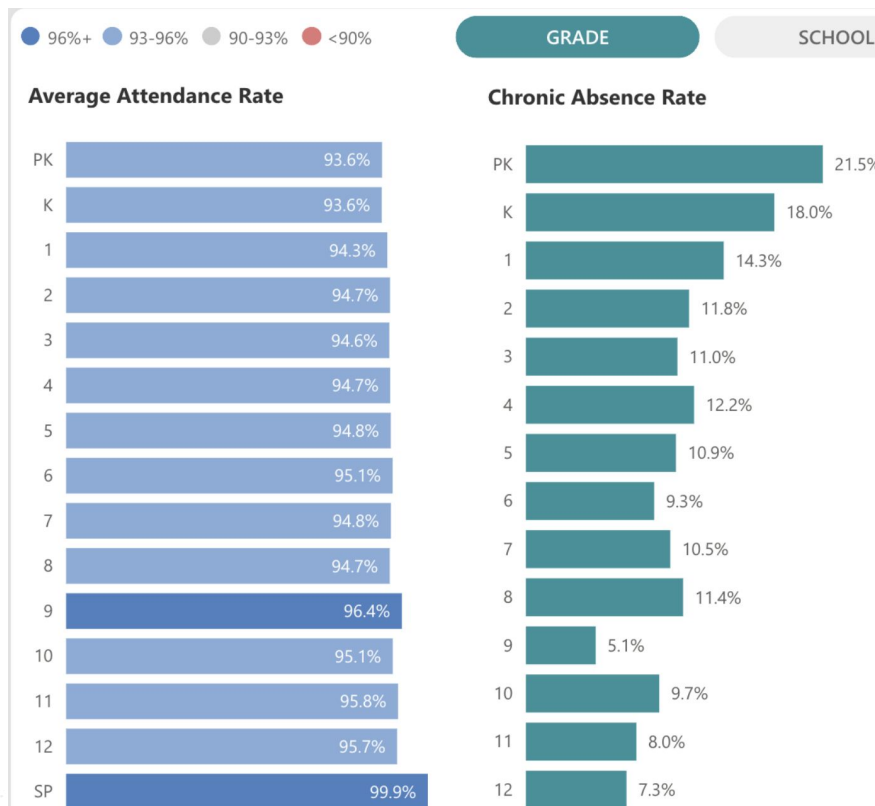
Per School Committee policy, schools are only allowed to excuse absences that are a result of personal illness, significant life stressors (e.g., death of a family member), observing religious holidays, attending a medical appointment that cannot be made outside of school hours, participating in a legal proceeding, serving



Attendance Trends

- Chronic Absenteeism = Missing 10% or more of school days enrolled
 - 2016-2017 = 7.4%
 - 2017-2018 = 7.8%
 - 2018-2019 = 8.1%
 - 2019-2020 = 9.3%
 - 2020-2021 = 5.9%* (Hybrid)
 - 2021-2022 = 15.1% (3.2% were 20% or more)
 - 2022-2023 = 14.5% (2.6% were 20% or more)
 - **3/6/24 = 11.1% (2.2% were 20% or more)**
 - On 3/1/23 the rate was 17.5%

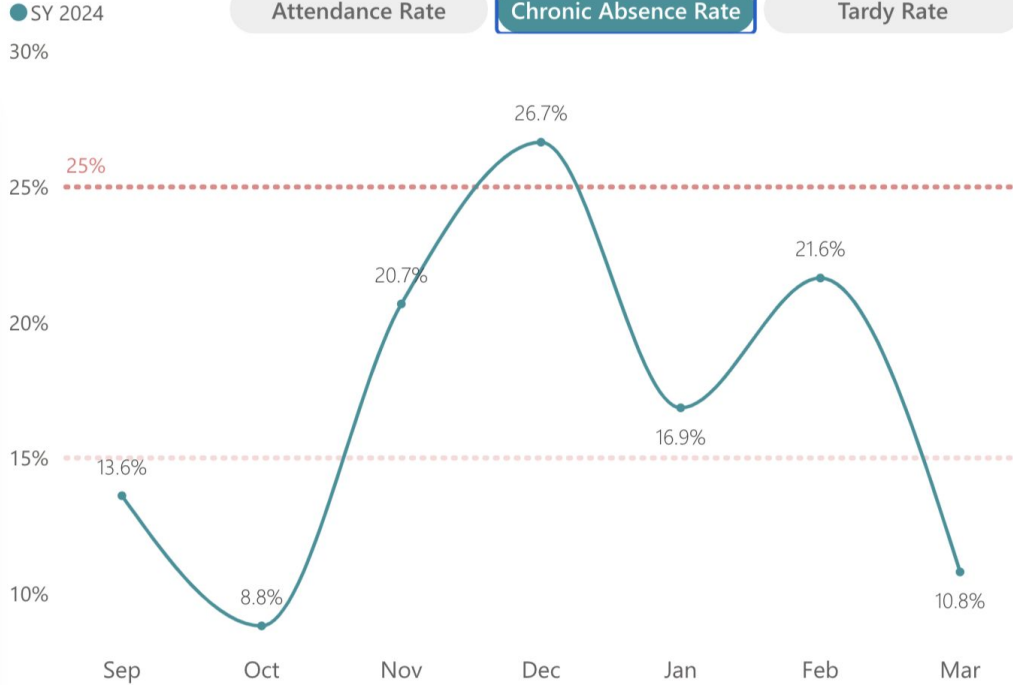
Attendance Data



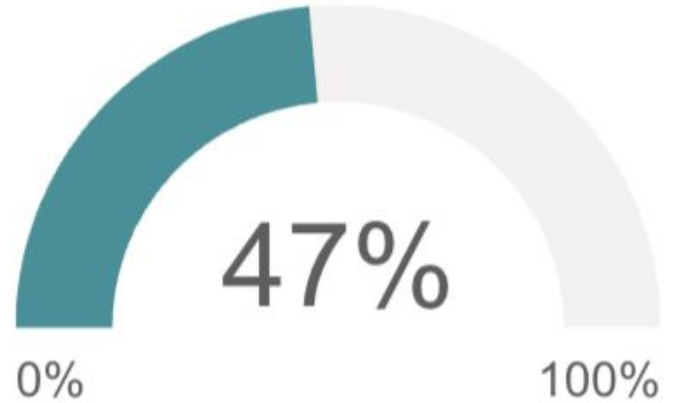
K to 8's: Range
9.3% to 17.5%

Attendance Data

Chronic Absence Rate by...



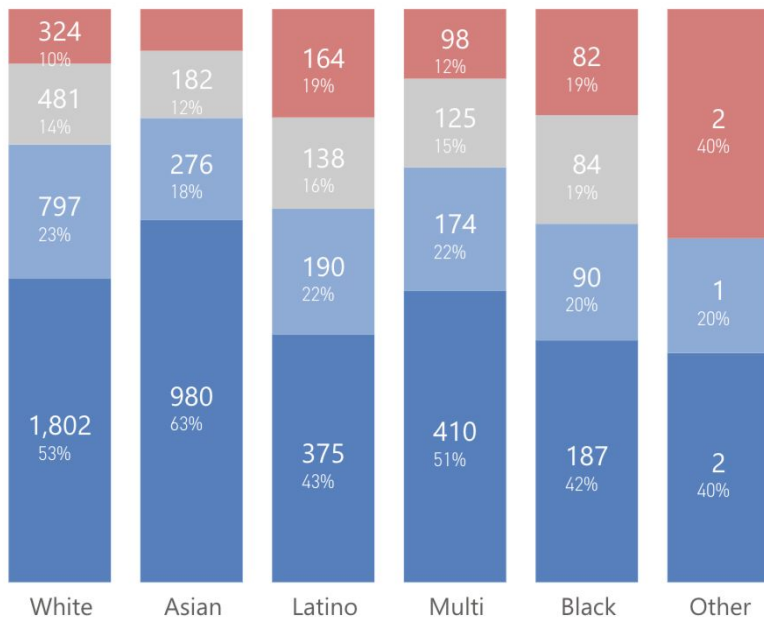
% Unexcused Absences



Attendance Data

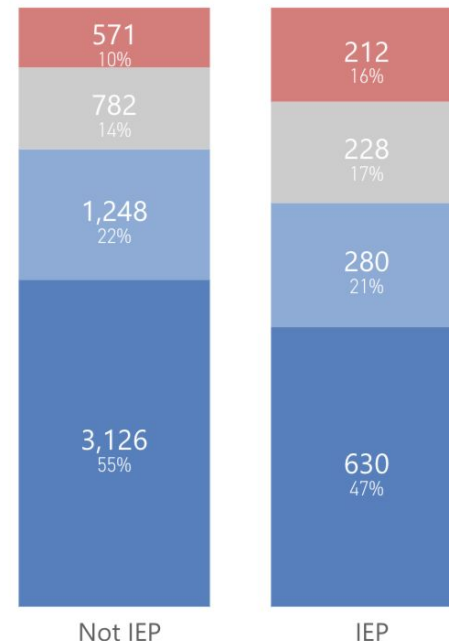
% of Total and # of Students by: Attendance

● 96%+ ● 93-96% ● 90-93% ● <90%



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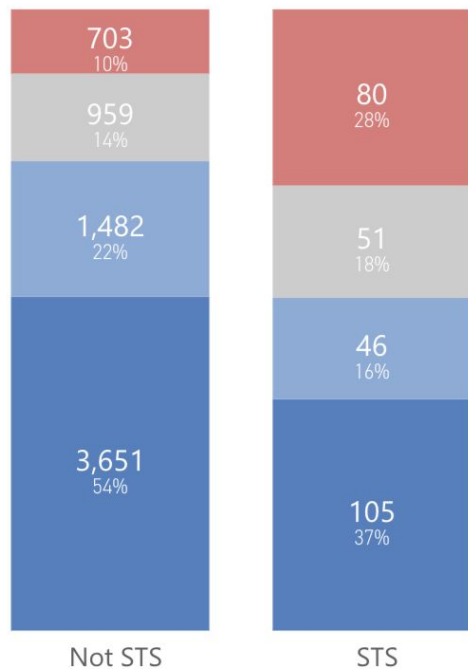
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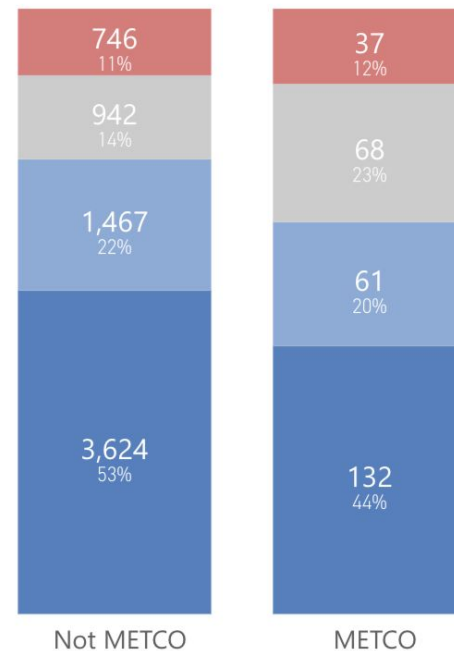
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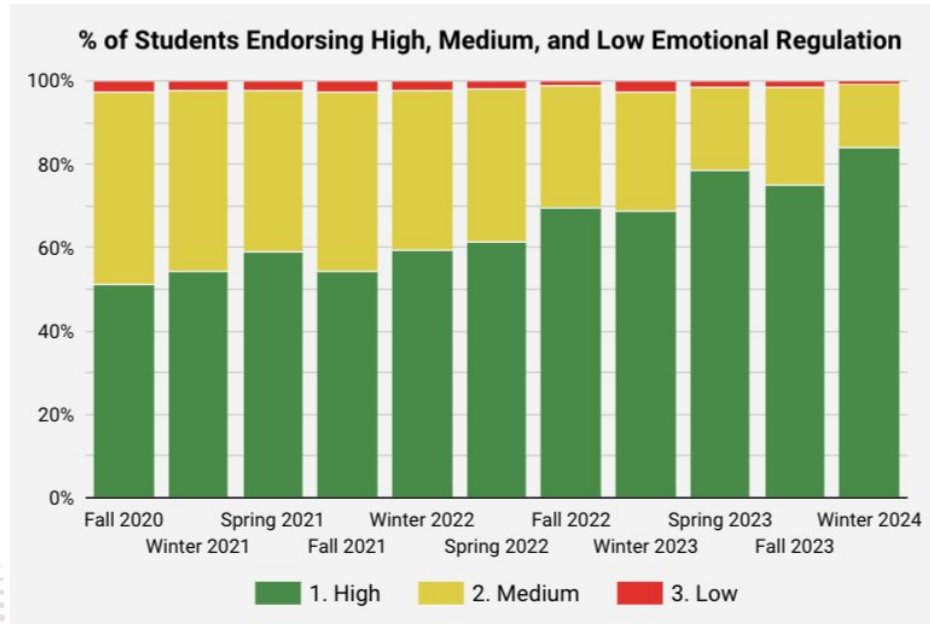
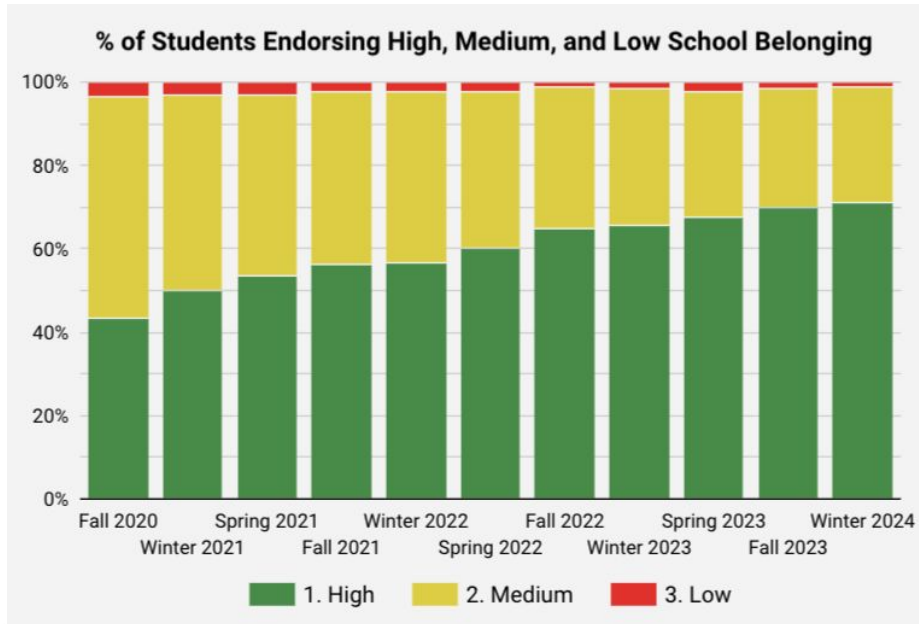
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Support, Intervention, and Response

- Early Identification, Notification, and Support
 - Attendance Teams, Running attendance reports, Sending attendance letters
 - Open Architects
 - Supportive Outreach (Problem Definition)
 - Attendance Office
 - Home Visits (development of home visit protocol)
 - Attendance Support Plans
- Ongoing support around Belonging and Emotional Regulation

Belonging and Emotional Regulation



Support, Intervention, and Response

- Increased access to community-based mental health support
 - Cartwheel (parent coaching)
 - InStride
 - Boston Center

Next Steps

- Training on Open Architects
- Automating Attendance Letter
- Creation of Attendance Working Group
 - PSB staff/administrators, students, parents/guardians, community/university partners.