



# **Department of Education & Workforce**

**Lesson One: What is chronic absence and why does it matter?**

# OVERALL TRAINING OBJECTIVES

**The focus of the Teaching Attendance curriculum is to support school staff in addressing chronic absence and improving academic outcomes.**

# Six Sessions



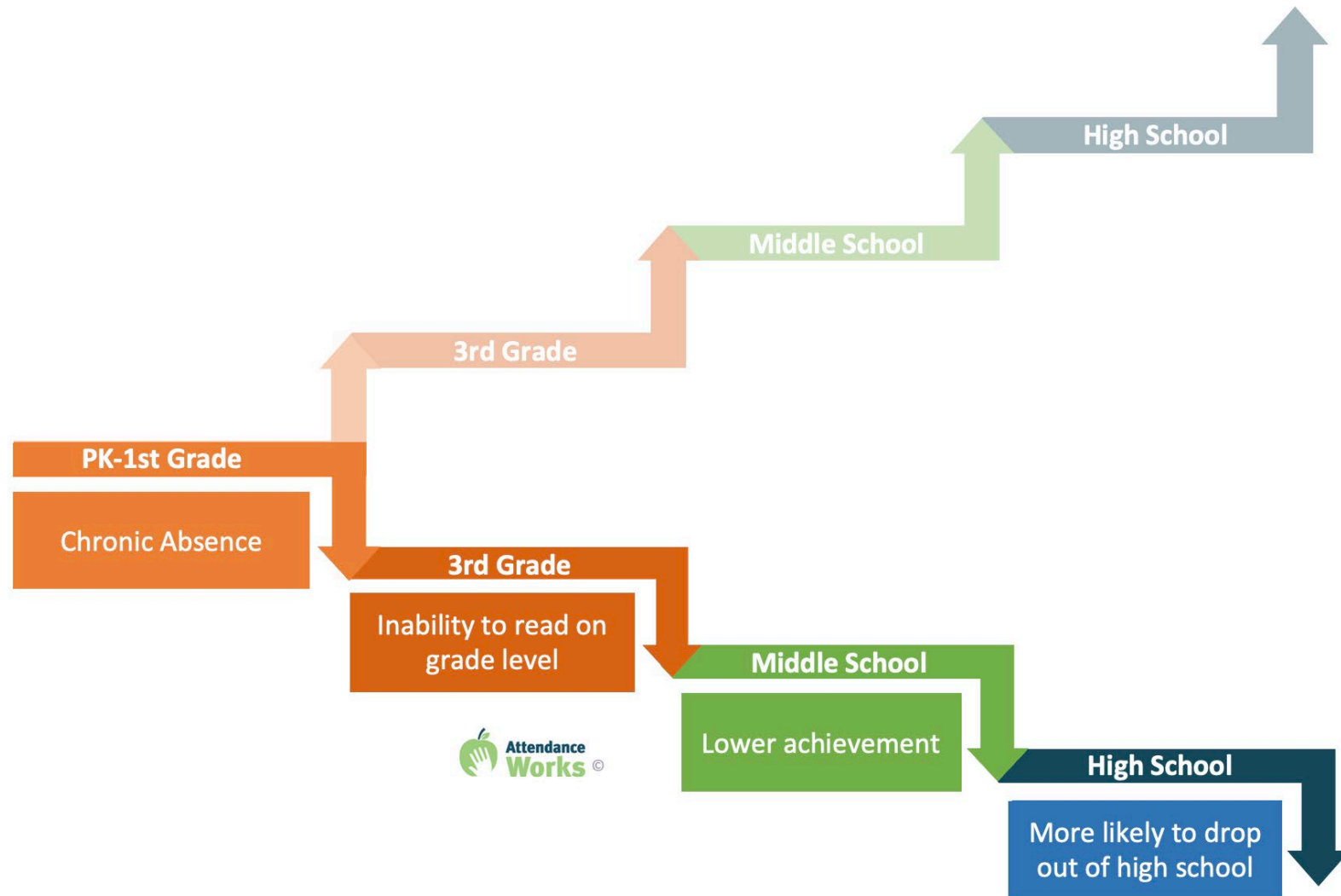
- **Lesson One: What is chronic absence and why does it matter?**
- Lesson Two: Shift to prevention and early intervention
- Lesson Three: The role of teachers in attendance
- Lesson Four: Understanding why students are absent
- Lesson Five: Effective communication with students and families
- Lesson Six: A Whole School Approach: Relationships Matter

# Learning Objectives

**By the end of this lesson, participants will be able to:**

- Understand what is chronic absence
- Understand that chronic absence impacts student academic achievement and overall well-being
- Know your school's chronic absence data

# Improving Attendance Matters



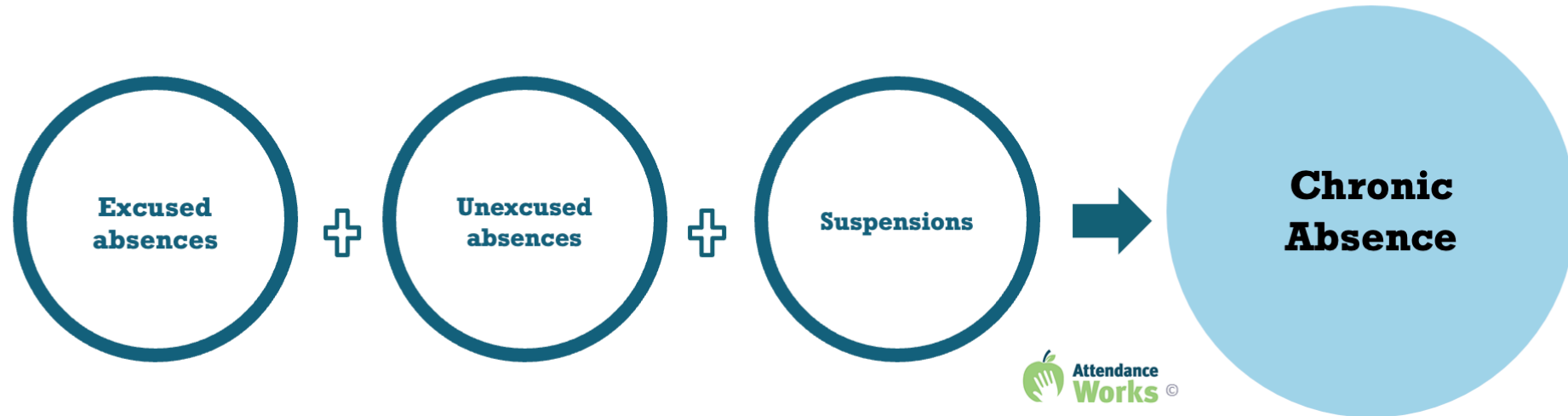
Chronic Absence = **As Few as 2 Days a Month**

Chronic Absence = 18 days of absence = **As Few as 2 Days a Month**

September					October					November					December					January				
M	T	W	TH	F	M	T	W	TH	F	M	T	W	TH	F	M	T	W	TH	F	M	T	W	TH	F
													X				X							
							X				X													
		X	X					X				X			X	X				X	X	X		

February					March					April					May					June				
M	T	W	TH	F	M	T	W	TH	F	M	T	W	TH	F	M	T	W	TH	F	M	T	W	TH	F
				X						X														
X	X													X	X					X	X			
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# In Summary: What is Chronic Absence?



Chronic absence is missing so much school for any reason that a student is academically at risk. Chronic absence is defined as **missing 10 percent or more of school for any reason.**

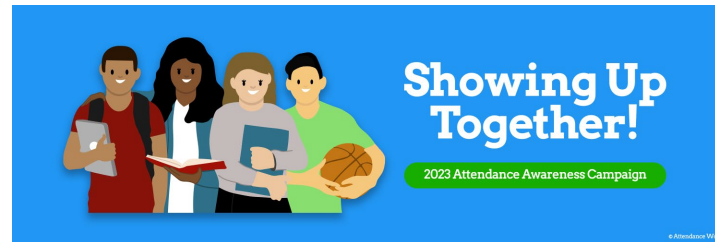
# Video: What is Chronic Absence?



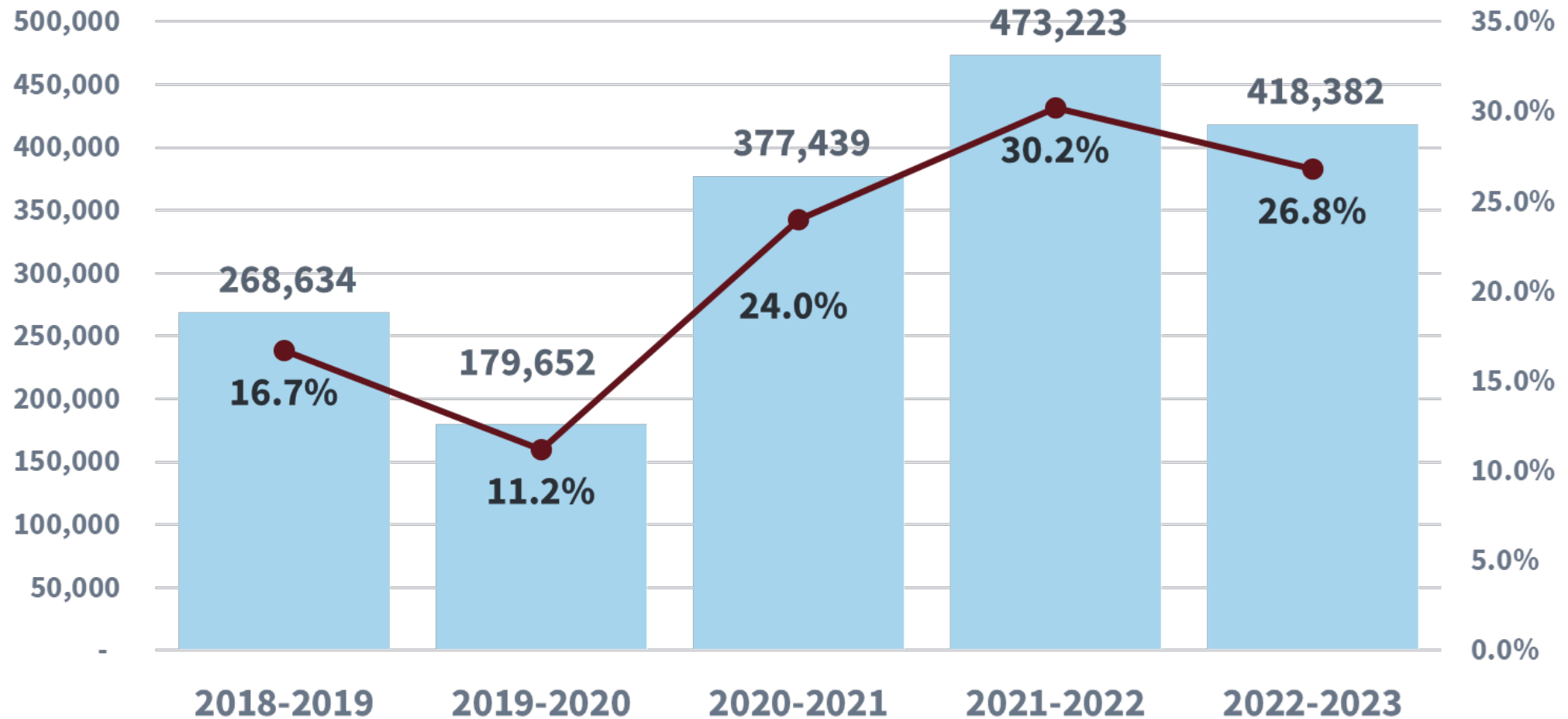
<https://youtu.be/0c5eILX4-nY>

# Chronic Absence Data

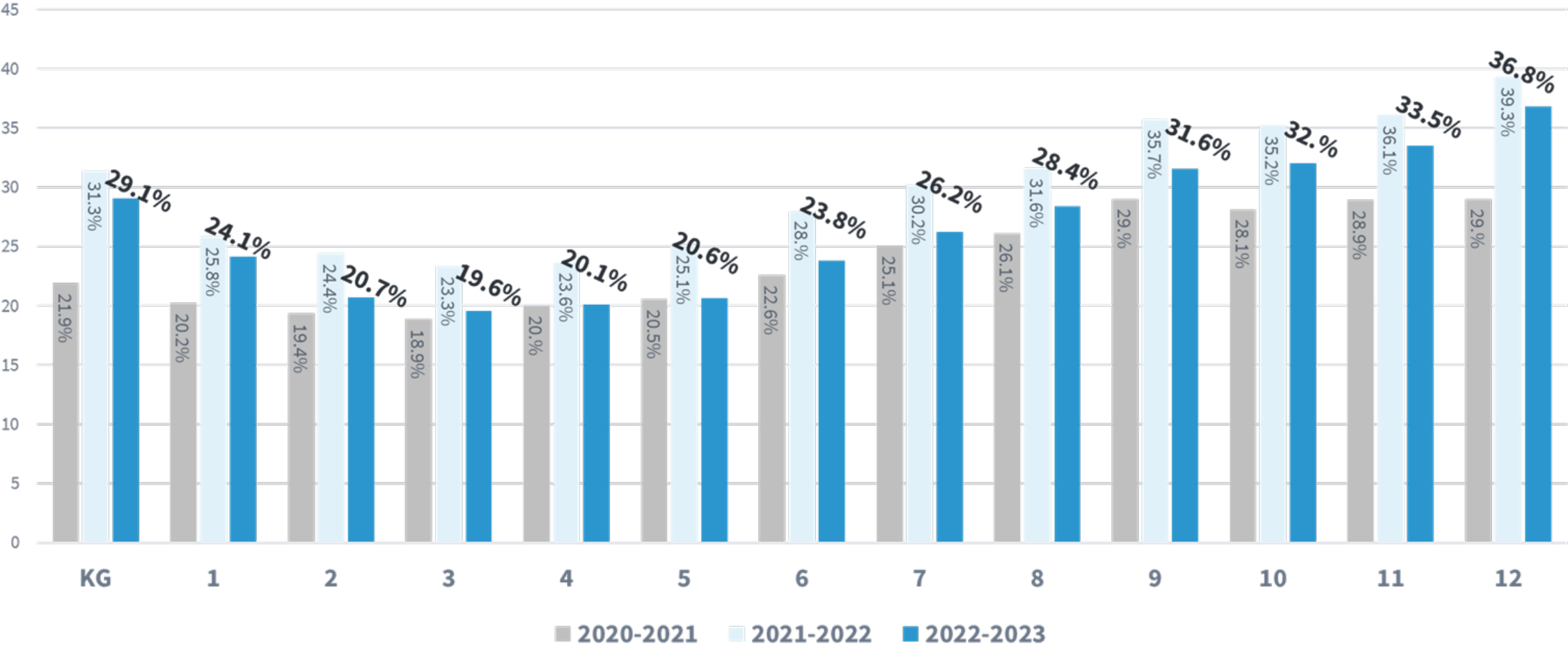
## Look at Trends and Patterns



# Chronic Absence in Ohio



# Chronic Absence by Grade Level in Ohio



# Know Your Students' Attendance Status

DAYS MISSED IN SCHOOL YEAR	
<b>Satisfactory Attendance</b>	Missed <b>less than 5%</b> (6 hours or one day per month)
<b>At-risk Attendance</b>	Missed <b>5-9.99%</b> (7 to 11 hours per month)
<b>Moderate Chronic Absence</b>	Missed <b>10-19.99%</b> (12-24 hours per month)
<b>Severe Chronic Absence</b>	Missed <b>20-49.99%</b> (25-59 hours per month)
<b>Extreme Chronic Absence</b>	Missed <b>50% or more</b> (60+ hours per month)

# What is the chronic absence rate in your district and school?

If you can't easily access your school's data,  
here's a resource you can use:

<https://reports.education.ohio.gov/overview>

Public Data → Student Attendance → School/District

# Small Group Discussion

- What surprises you about the data?
- What other data would you like to see so you can better understand chronic absence in your school or district?
- What questions do you have about chronic absence or the data?

# Large Group Discussion

Each group share their responses to the question:

- What surprised you about the data?
- What questions do you have about chronic absence or the data?

# Key Messages

- Chronic absence is a measure of lost instructional time.
- Missing just two days a month for any reason, or 10% or more of days, is chronic absence and can lead to academic risk for students Pre-kindergarten - 12th grade.
- Even excused absences, when they add up, can cause a student to fall off track academically.
- While chronic absence can affect all students, some students are more likely to be chronically absent due to a variety of challenges such as economic hardship, bullying, or struggling academically and/or behaviorally.

# Potential Ideas to Implement

- Access your school's chronic absence data.
- Pick a grade level and review chronic absence data. Consider students who are at-risk or have moderate chronic absence.

# Resources

- [Ohio Department of Education and Workforce Attendance Support](#)
- District and school Data:  
<https://reports.education.ohio.gov/overview>  
Public Data → Student Attendance → School/district
- [Attendance Works](#)
  - [Using data for support](#)