

Frequently Asked Questions

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How does the state determine who is chronically absent?

Chronic absenteeism means a student is absent from school at least ten percent (10%) of the time that school is in session. Additional guidance is provided [here](#).

What changes have been made to the Chronic Absenteeism indicator since the last Report Card?

In school years 2017-2018 and 2018-2019, administrative rules directed the State Board of Education to oversee a process for exempting specific medical absences from the Chronic Absenteeism indicator.

Pursuant to House Bill 1988 (2019), the rule mandate placing medical exemption authority at the state level was revoked. This new rule authorizes school districts to develop chronic absenteeism medical exemption policies at the local level, which are to be developed in accordance with the guidelines laid out in the rule. The local committees will approve or deny based on the districts' Medical Exemption policies.

How is Chronic Absenteeism different from a school's attendance policy?

Local district attendance policies vary in how they code absences (excused or unexcused, school activity, medical, etc.).

Excused absences are included in Chronic Absenteeism indicator calculations. This is because absences, whether excused or unexcused, result in lost instructional time, which places students at academic risk.

How is Chronic Absenteeism different from Average Daily Attendance (ADA) and truancy?

ADA can mask absenteeism. ADA is a snapshot by day of total attendance but it does not track or identify individual students who are regularly absent. Schools can have a 90 percent ADA with 30 percent of students chronically absent. In contrast, truancy is a measure of only unexcused absences. By including all absences, chronic absenteeism measures all lost instructional time.



Are all students included in Chronic Absenteeism calculations?

Only students who meet Full Academic Year (FAY) criteria are included in Chronic Absenteeism indicator calculations. For more information click [here](#).

Students who have experienced significant trauma or medical conditions may have individual absences exempted.

How can schools reduce chronic absenteeism?

When the underlying reasons for student absences are unmasked, it is possible to implement strategies to improve attendance and thus academic achievement.

Working together, all members of the community – schools, families, and community partners – positively impact chronic absenteeism. For additional resources and strategies to reduce chronic absenteeism, resources available on the [Attendance Works](#) website.

Do absences for therapy or other services for disabilities for students on an IEP/504 count as absences in the Chronic Absenteeism indicator?

No. A student with disabilities who is on an Individualized Education Program (IEP), or a student with a physical or mental impairment who is on a Section 504 Plan, is considered in attendance and does not accrue absences while receiving offsite services. The student should be marked present. Additional information can be found at this link: [FAQs- Chronic Absenteeism and Students with Disabilities](#)

Are absences due to suspension counted in the calculation of the Chronic Absenteeism indicator?

Yes. Please, see 70 O.S. 24-101.3(D) for more guidance on continuing services for suspended students in a manner deemed appropriate by the district.

Additionally, this document issued by the Office of Data Information Systems provides specific attendance coding guidance for suspended students: [Guidance for Attendance and Suspensions](#).



Do students who are coded as a DVA or DVAP count in the calculation of the Chronic Absenteeism indicator?

DVAP (Distance Learning Present) - If the student is coded as DVAP, the absence value is expected to be 0. If this is not the case, please contact your local SIS vendor.

DVA (Distance Learning Absent) - The student is coded as DVA if the student is absent from a traditional learning environment and a distance learning environment. These absences are included in determining if a student is chronically absent.

Do activity absences count as present?

Yes. The student will be allowed to be absent from the classroom for a maximum of ten days per school year to participate in activities sponsored by the school [OSSAA Rules](#). These students may have a locally defined attendance/absence code but are reported present in the state student information system.

Do students identified as homeless as outlined in McKinney-Vento Act qualify for medical exemption?

The McKinney-Vento Act does not qualify for a medical exemption. To receive a medical exemption, a student would need to qualify with the guidelines outlined in [OAC 210:10-13-25](#) and set in district policy.

How does the medical exemption affect my ADA in Annual Statistical Report (ASR)?

It does not affect the ADA in the ASR.

Additional Questions & Resources:

[Chronic Absenteeism Reporting Resources](#)
[Enrollment and Attendance Guidance](#)

If you have any questions, please reach out to the Office of Accountability at accountability@sde.ok.gov or call 405-522- 5169. Visit the [OSDE Accountability Home Page](#) for more resources.

