Strategic Plan
Information and Advocacy Report

TO: Board of Education

FROM: Sarah Straka, Director of Instruction

DATE: June 16, 2025

RE: Information and Advocacy Report - Learning and Growth

OVERVIEW

Board Goal I: Learning and Growth: We will graduate students who are prepared for college and career.

Objective D: Academic development and behaviors of students to help prepare for citizenship.

- Indicator I: Life ready indicators.

Indicator 2: Life Ready Indicators

Percent of Students Receiving Silver Cord

About one year ago, the Board of Education identified student participation in community service as part of their Life Indicator "Power Goals". Silver Cord is one avenue for high school students to show and document their community service.

Seniors who have completed 140 hours of volunteer service, during their high school career, are awarded the honor of wearing a silver cord at the graduation ceremony. More information on the requirements and logistics of the program can be found at the Mount Horeb High School Silver Cord Service Program webpage.

Table 1 provides the total number and percentage of seniors who receive a silver cord upon graduation. As shown below, the percentage of students completing Silver Cord Hours has decreased over time, especially after the initial onset of the pandemic. However, it should be noted that students are still volunteering their time but may not have accumulated enough to earn the silver cord distinction at graduation. A total of 31 students from the Class of 2025 submitted silver cord hours (ranging from 1 hour to 120 hours) during their four-years at Mount Horeb High School. This equates to about 40% of students turning in some or all of their silver cord hours.

The high school's administration team has been reviewing the silver cord data and requirements. They may have a recommendation for district leadership sometime in the near future which *may* include an adjustment to the minimum number of hours and types of allowable activities.

Table 1: Students Earning Silver Cord Status

	16-17	17-18	18-19	19-20	20-21	21-22	22-23	23-24	24-25
Total # of Seniors Receiving Silver Cord	29	67	46	43	35	24	33	28	43
Percent of Seniors Receiving Silver Cord	18%	31%	25%	23%	18%	13%	18%	14%	23%

Table 2 provides a breakdown of those 43 students who did receive silver cord hours. As in past years, those students identifying as female have dominated the number of silver cord completers.

Tables 2 & 3: Students Earning Silver Cord Status - Disaggregated by Gender

Class of 2025 - Students	Total # of Students	Total % of Students	# Students Met Silver Cord Hours	% Students Met Silver Cord Hours
Male	87	48%	7	16%
Female	96	52%	36	84%

Class of 2024 - Students	Total # of Students	Total % of Students	# Students Met Silver Cord Hours	% Students Met Silver Cord Hours
Male	104	53%	7	25%
Female	94	47%	21	75%

Graduation Rates

As Table 4 notes, the graduation rate of MHHS seniors is consistently above the state average. We had two students who did not graduate. These two students were provided many layers of support: modified schedule, invitation to participate in Operation Fresh Start, GEDO II, continued communication with parents/guardians, reduced credits, online programming, etc. An additional six students will continue in our 18+ Transition Program.

Table 4: Mount Horeb High School's Graduation Rate Per DPI Wisedash for Districts

	18-19	19-20	20-21	21-22	22-23	23-24	24-25
Total # of MHHS Seniors	181	196	201	195	194	201	177
% of MHHS Graduate Seniors	97%	96.4%	96.9%	96.8%	97.3%	94.7%	94.3%*
% of Graduate Seniors in WI	90.0%	90.4%	89.5%	90.3%	90.5%	91.1%	TBD

*Reported via Infinite Campus

Attendance Rates

Students' regular attendance is an important factor in their school success. The activities and learning that occur during a class period are not easily made up since the experiences cannot be duplicated. Therefore, it is important that absences be kept to a minimum. State Law requires that a student must attend school until the end of the semester in which they reach the age of 18. Figures 1 and 2 provide summary information on the overall five-year state attendance trends compared to the five-year MHASD attendance trends.

The overall state attendance rate has improved from the 2021-22 to the 2023-24 school year and maintained from last school year to this school year at 94.5%. This is close to the 95% standard in which the Board of Education approved as a District "Power Goal"l at the June 3, 2024 Board of Education meeting.

Figure 1: Attendance Rate Trend for All WI Public School Students

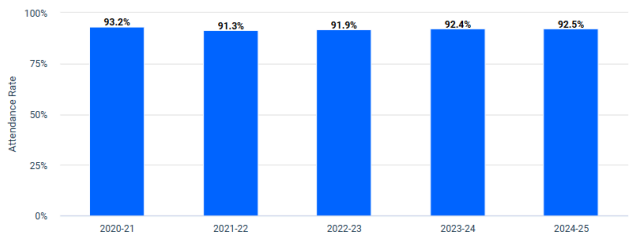
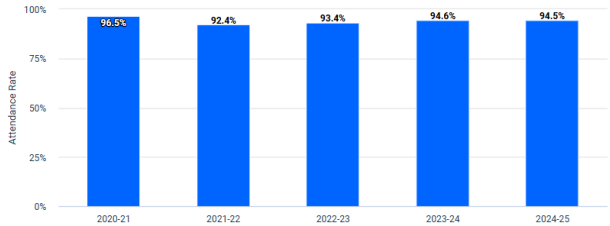


Figure 2: Attendance Rate Trend for All MHASD Students



The above figures portray the average percentage of students present on any given day–rate is calculated by dividing the actual days present by the total possible days of attendance across all students. While this information is helpful to measure student engagement and is a predictor of future achievement, it is even more helpful to review the chronic absenteeism rate which identifies the percentage of students who have

missed 10% or more days of school in a given year, excused or unexcused. Figure 4 provides this information. Overall though, the percentage of students identified as chronically absent has steadily decreased since the pandemic. Figures 5-8 provide this data by building level as well.

***Figure 4*: Students Chronically Absent Trend for All Current MHASD Students**

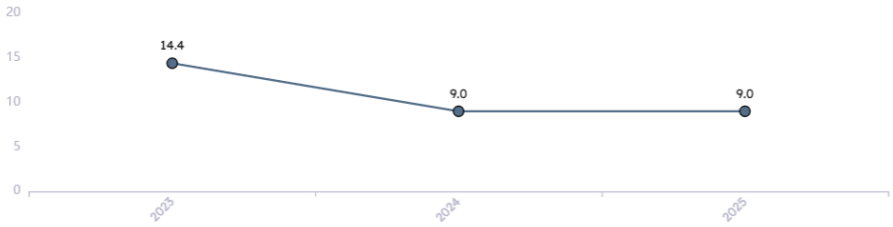


***Figure 5*: Students Chronically Absent Trend for All Current *K-2* Students**

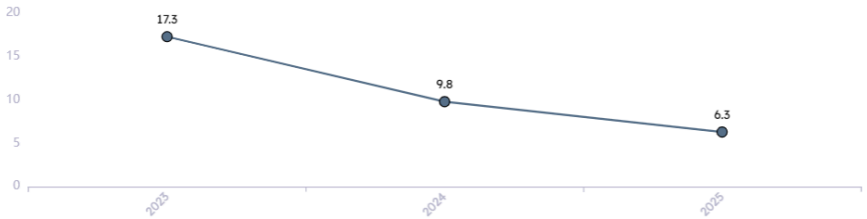


***Figure 6*: Students Chronically Absent Trend for All Current *3-5* Students**

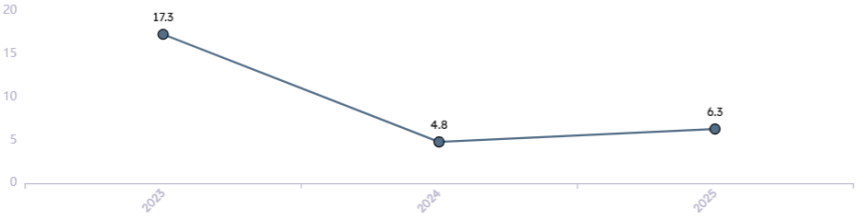


***Figure 7*: Students Chronically Absent Trend for All Current *6-8* Students**

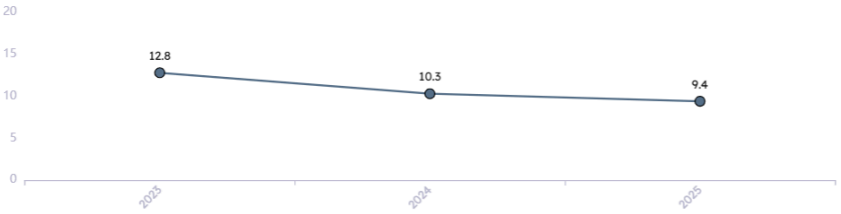
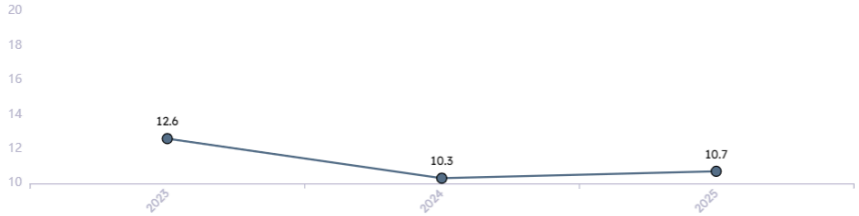


***Figure 8*: Students Chronically Absent Trend for All Current *9-12* Students**



During these past school years, the District has conducted various attendance campaigns, as a result of the trends noted herein. For example, each school building has been promoting the importance of attendance in

various ways: school building websites, principal newsletters, and personal phone calls and emails to families. Below provides a breakdown of attendance at each building by grade level.

Table 5: School Attendance Rates by Grade

	18-19	19-20	20-21	21-22	22-23	23-24	24-25	Average
Grade K	95%	93.8%	96.9%	92.1%	92.0%	95.0%	94.9%	94.2%
Grade 1	95.5%	93.7%	96.2%	91.9%	93%	94.9%	95.4%	94.4%
Grade 2	95.3%	94.4%	96.8%	91.9%	92.8%	95.5%	95.4%	94.6%
Grade 3	95.8%	94.7%	97.9%	93%	93.5%	95.5%	95.0%	95.1%
Grade 4	95.6%	94.9%	97.2%	93.1%	94.2%	95.3%	95.1%	95.1%
Grade 5	95.1%	94.6%	97.8%	92.3%	93.2%	95.8%	94.8%	94.8%
Grade 6	96%	95.8%	96.5%	93.4%	93.7%	95.2%	95.2%	95.1%
Grade 7	95.9%	95.3%	96.8%	93.2%	94.2%	94.0%	94.8%	94.9%
Grade 8	95.8%	95.1%	96.4%	92.6%	94%	94.0%	93.2%	94.4%
Grade 9	94.7%	95.9%	96.9%	93.6%	94.1%	95.6%	94.6%	95.1%
Grade 10	93.6%	94.8%	96.6%	92.9%	93.6%	94.6%	94.5%	94.4%
Grade 11	93%	93.7%	96.5%	92.6%	93%	93.4%	93.8%	93.7%
Grade 12	91.1%	92.1%	97%	90.1%	92.4%	92.3%	93.5%	92.6%

SUMMARY

This report highlights key student data aligned with the Board of Education's *Breakthrough 2032* Learning and Growth goal, specifically related to Life Ready Indicators, graduation rates, and attendance. While Silver Cord participation has seen an increase, a notable gender gap remains. Graduation rates at Mount Horeb High School remain consistently above the state average, and chronic absenteeism is trending downward across all grade levels. Attendance campaigns and student support strategies have contributed to these positive shifts. Next steps include continued analysis of participation disparities, potential adjustments to the Silver Cord program, and ongoing monitoring of attendance and engagement trends aligned to district goals.