

Questions to Ask When Looking at Your Data

Reports on chronic absence data can be overwhelming. The following questions can help you dig deeper and better understand what the quantitative data is telling you about which groups of students are chronically absent. Once you have done this deeper analysis on the quantitative data, you can gather qualitative data from these students and their families to better understand why they are absent. All of this information can help you to develop targeted strategies that best use your limited resources.

- What is your school's overall chronic absence rate? How many students are chronically absent?
- What percentage of students are at-risk of chronic absence (missing 5% - 9% of the school year)? How many students are at-risk?
- What percentage of students are moderately chronically absent (missing 10% - 19% of the school year)? How many students are moderately chronically absent?
- What percentage of students are severely chronically absent (missing 20% or more of the school year)? How many students are severely chronically absent?
- As you look at your overall rates and different levels of chronic absence, do particular groups have higher rates? Look at these groups:
 - race/ethnicity
 - income level
 - neighborhood/geography
 - primary language
 - disability
 - grade level
- What do you know about why certain groups of students are missing school? How might you learn more?