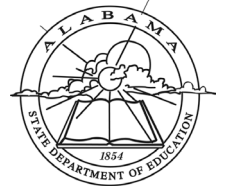




STATE OF ALABAMA
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION



Eric G. Mackey, Ed.D.
State Superintendent of Education

Alabama
State Board
of Education

Governor Kay Ivey
President

Jackie Zeigler
District I

Tracie West
District II

Kelly Mooney
District III
President Pro Tem

Yvette M. Richardson, Ed.D.
District IV

Tonya S. Chestnut, Ed.D.
District V

Marie Manning
District VI
Vice President

Allen Long, M.D.
District VII

Wayne Reynolds, Ed.D.
District VIII

Eric G. Mackey, Ed.D.
Secretary and
Executive Officer

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
September 2, 2025

Contact: Communication
(334) 694-4688
comm@alsde.edu

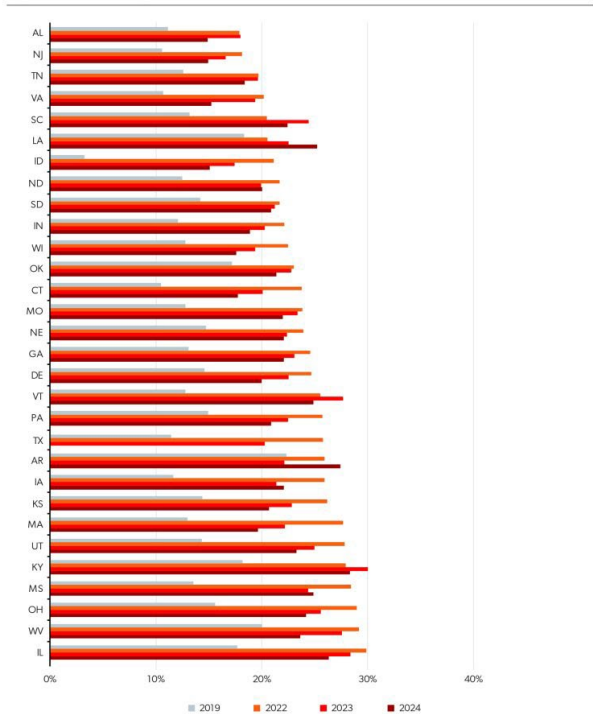
DAILY SCHOOL ATTENDANCE AND CLASSROOM ENGAGEMENT REMAIN TOP PRIORITIES FOR 2025-2026 ACADEMIC YEAR

“Positive Outcomes, Problem-Solving, Continued Focus on Exceptional School Attendance”

Montgomery Ala. – Alabama’s local school administrators continue to work hard to ensure every student has access to quality educational experiences, supported by regular school attendance. Schools are also increasing their outreach to ensure all students have real success.

September has officially been designated as School Attendance Awareness Month 2025.

Figure 2. States’ Average Chronic Absenteeism Rates in the Pandemic Era: School Years 2019–24



Source: Return to Learn Tracker, “Chronic Absenteeism: 2017–2024,” American Enterprise Institute, <https://www.returntolearntacker.net>.
Note: School years are referred to by the spring year.

Continued on the next page

National research indicates students who are chronically absent, in any year between eighth and 12th grade, are over 7 times more likely to drop out, compared to those with better daily attendance. Our state and local communities are working together to keep Alabama’s school attendance moving in the right direction.

Chronic absences can often reflect the real-world challenges some students and families are facing.

Communicating the importance of *every* child showing up for school is key. Any barriers in transportation, student health care access, or family home stability must be addressed.

Alabama’s innovative approach in eliminating chronic absence was recognized earlier this year.

The report, *Lingering Absence in Public Schools: Tracking Post-Pandemic Chronic Absenteeism into 2024*, detailed America’s recent absenteeism statistics. It also explored current data trends and national best practices.

The [final report](#) indicates *Alabama has one of the lowest absenteeism rates in the U.S.*

—more—

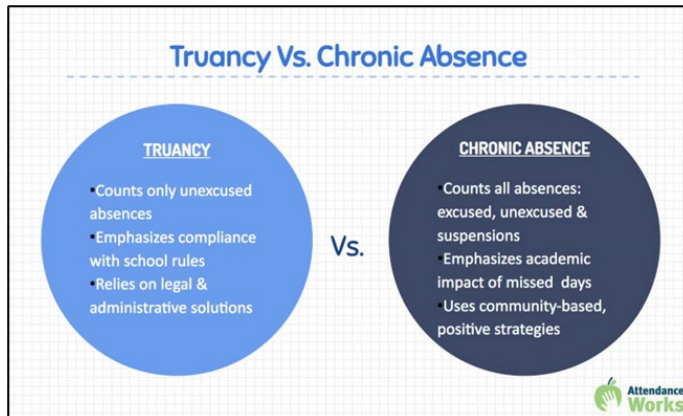
Finding innovative and effective ways to address learning losses must also remain a top priority. *Parents must also have their children engaged and ready to learn.*

“Alabama’s teachers seem even more determined to have greater daily school attendance,” said Education Administrator for the ALSDE Instructional Services Section Dr. Kay Atchison Warfield. “The most important responsibility that our state and local communities have is ensuring every student has a chance to reach their full potential. The best way to ensure this success is through a sincere commitment to education. One of the best ways for students to have a great educational experience is for their parents and the trusted care takers in their life to make sincere commitments to assist them in reaching personal and long term goals, through consistent support.”



The recent global pandemic inspired local schools to strengthen their methods of providing classroom instruction. One important resource, which continues to make a positive impact on school attendance in our state is our annual celebration of *Alabama Attendance Awareness Month*.

During this special event, real emphasis is placed on building greater student engagement, public awareness, and family support for school attendance efforts. Local schools have become more familiar with the *Alabama Attendance Manual* and guidelines. Use of this resource provides



guidance to educators, parents, and local communities on school attendance laws and information.

Every day that a child is not in school is a day a child misses an opportunity to grow. Now celebrating more than 10 years of service, the *Attendance Awareness Campaign* shares a vital message. This national campaign urges schools, localities, and states to promote the value of good school attendance.

Chronic absenteeism -18 days or more a year (excused and unexcused) places students at greater academic risk. Schools have the potential to support students’ growth by helping them develop great connections to teachers, peers, and their local community. [Attendance Works](#) provides key information for schools, families, and community organizations to support student attendance.

Building a strong appreciation for attending school daily, also *starts to prepare students for their great future careers in the national workforce*, where one of the most important required skills is reporting into your workplace daily and also on time.

To learn more about Alabama school attendance and awareness efforts, contact Alabama State Department of Education Administrator Dr. Kay Atchison Warfield or ALSDE Instructional Services Specialist Tracy Goreed at 334-694-4768.

###