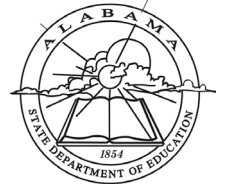




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DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION



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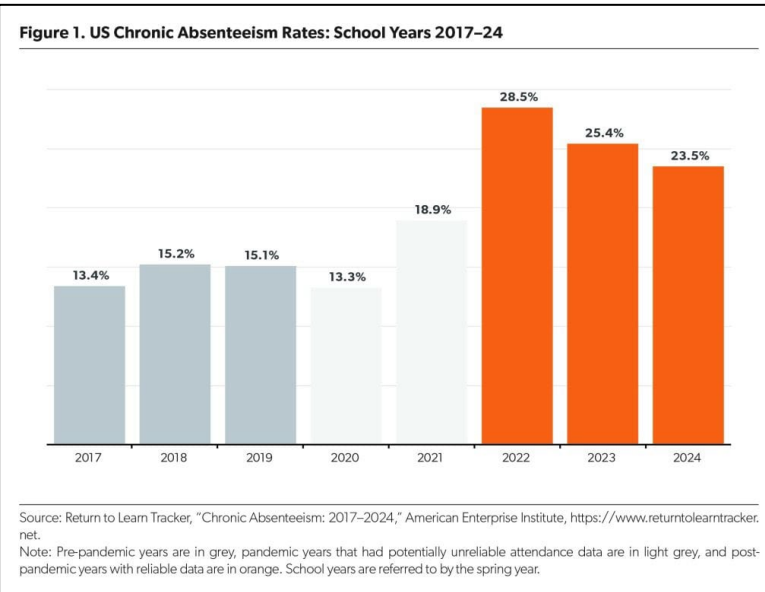
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
July 30, 2025

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NATIONAL REPORT SHOWS ALABAMA HAS ONE OF THE LOWEST STUDENT ABSENTEEISM RATES IN THE COUNTRY

Montgomery, Ala. – Chronic absenteeism, or students missing more than 10 percent of their school days, or a total of 18 days regardless of being excused or unexcused for any reason, has a negative impact on student achievement.

Chronic absenteeism can be experienced by students in any demographic or socio-economic category. In a national report recently released, Alabama was highlighted for having one of the lowest school absenteeism rates in the country.



This national report, *Lingering Absence in Public Schools: Tracking Post-Pandemic Chronic Absenteeism into 2024*, details the country's recent absenteeism statistics and includes detailed research for most states.

It explores current data trends, national best practices, and areas for improvement.

Research in this report shows national chronic

absenteeism rates fell to around 25.4 percent in 2023 and finally to 23.5 percent in 2024.

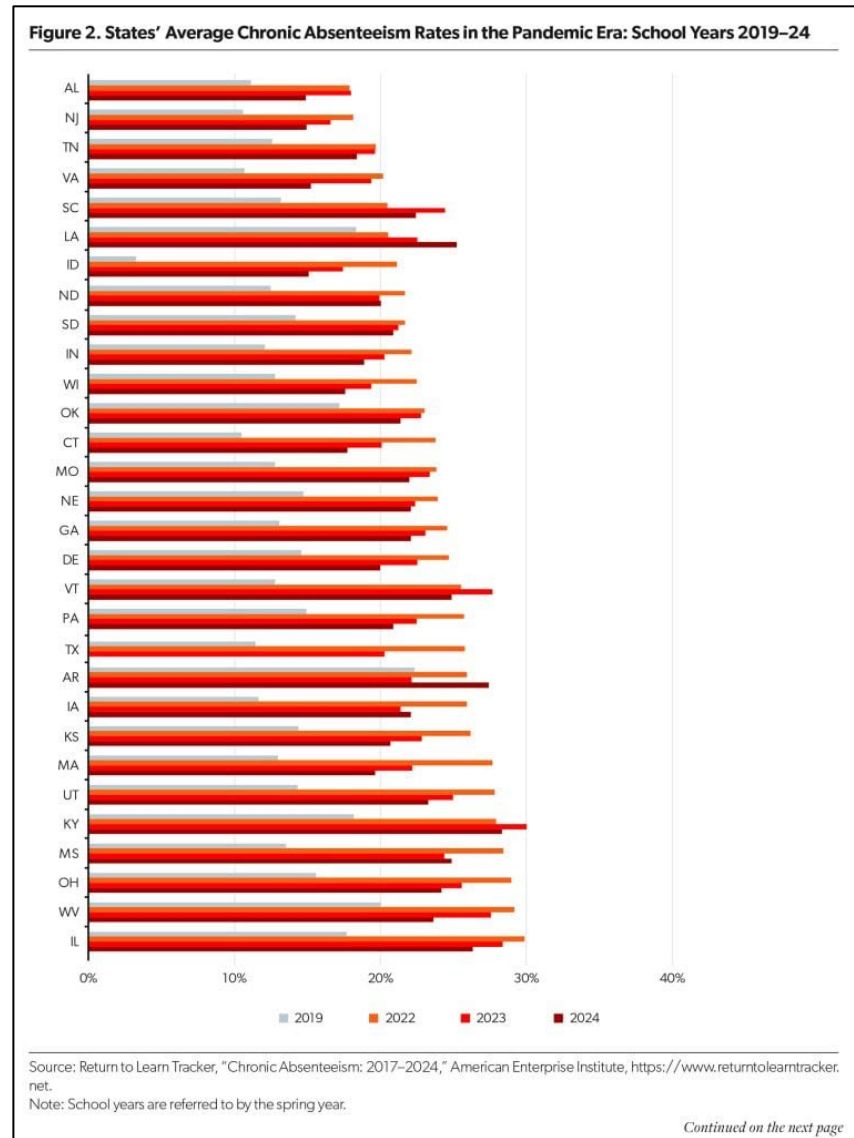
When left unchecked, chronic absenteeism can create harmful gaps in local school attendance, which ultimately can lower student classroom performance.

The data presented in the *Lingering Absence in Public Schools: Tracking Post-Pandemic Chronic Absenteeism into 2024* report indicates that Alabama now has one of the lowest absenteeism rates in the country.

—more—

REPORT INDICATES ALABAMA HAS ONE OF THE NATION'S LOWEST SCHOOL ABSENTEEISM RATES

“Improving school attendance matters to all of us, not just those with school-age children,” said State Superintendent Eric G. Mackey. “When students successfully



graduate, on time, our communities and our economy are stronger. We have more people who are prepared for postsecondary learning, career opportunities, and the responsibilities of becoming a great and productive citizen.”

As our state now prepares for the upcoming school year, local educators statewide are continuing to focus their efforts on further reducing student absenteeism rates.

Local school administrators are working hard to ensure every student has access to a high-quality educational experience supported by regular school attendance and a

focus on academic success. To review this report’s findings, visit the following weblink:

[American Enterprise Institute \(AEI\)](https://www.aei.org/)

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