

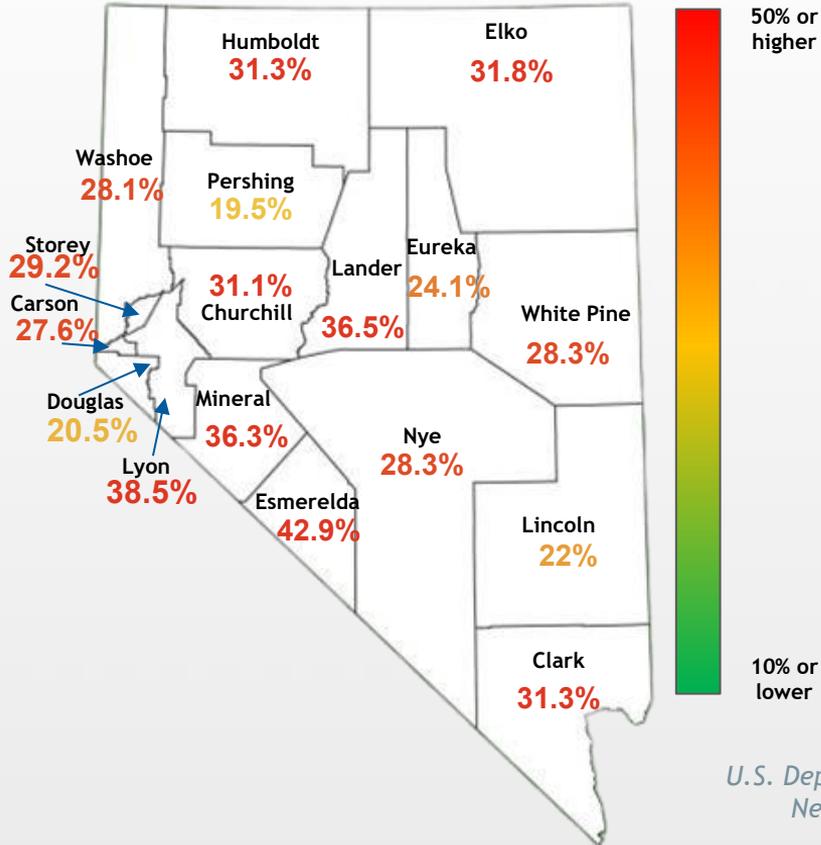
Nevada Department of Education

Chronic Absenteeism Prevention

Presented by: Rose Steffen & Katie Metz



What is Chronic Absenteeism



Chronic Absenteeism - 10% of a school year or 18 absences in 180 day school year.

“Chronic Absenteeism is a hidden educational crisis.”

2024-2025: #12 Highest State

Chronic Absenteeism vs. Truancy

TRUANCY

Counts only unexcused absences.
Emphasizes compliance with school rules.
Relies on legal and administrative solutions.

3
VS.

CHRONIC ABSENCE

Counts all absences: excused,
unexcused, and suspensions.
Emphasizes academic impact of missed days.
Uses community-based, positive strategies.

Potential Impacts of Chronic Absenteeism

Academic Consequences

- Higher risk of drop out
- Delays in literacy and mathematics
- By sixth grade, chronic absenteeism is a top predictor of drop out.

Social and Behavioral Impact

- Disengagement from peers
- Isolation
- Delayed social skills and behavioral issues

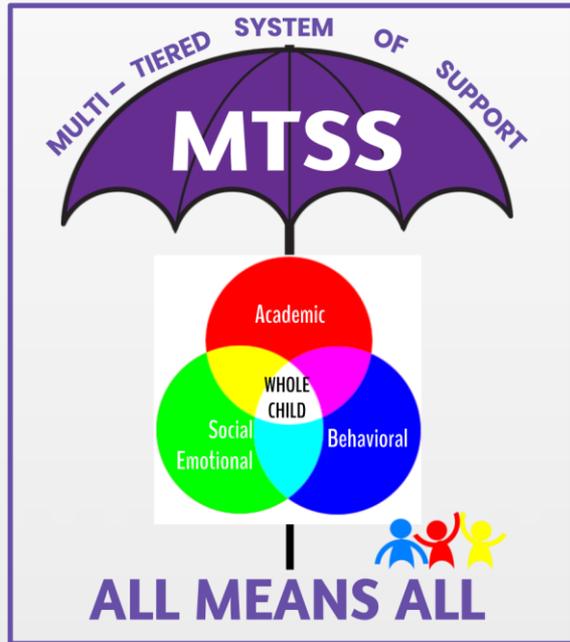
Long-term Impacts

- The average high school dropout costs their community more than \$800,000 over the course of their lifetime.
 - Higher risk of incarceration or victim of a crime
 - Lower earnings requiring supportive services (SNAP, Medicaid, TANF, etc.)
 - Poorer health outcomes
- Workforce shortages



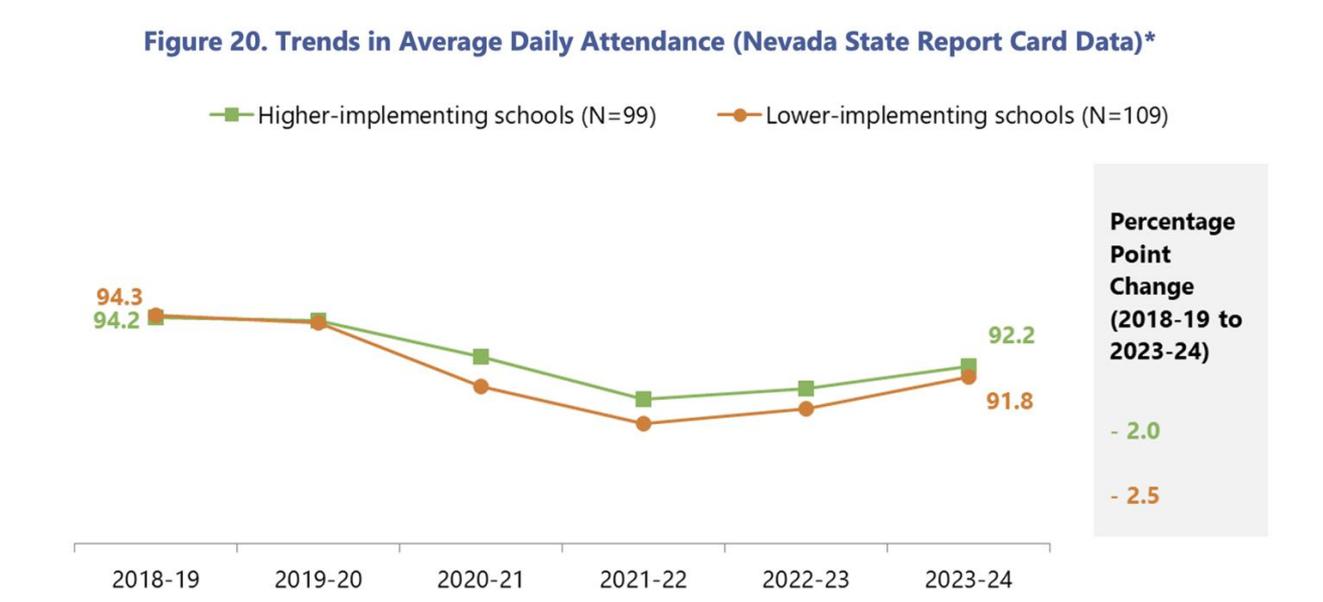
MTSS is an Operating System

Nevada's Multi-Tiered System of Support (MTSS) is a framework that helps schools support the whole child by combining academics, mental health, and social-emotional learning into one system. By working together, schools, families, and communities can create safe, healthy environments that keep students engaged, learning, and attending school.



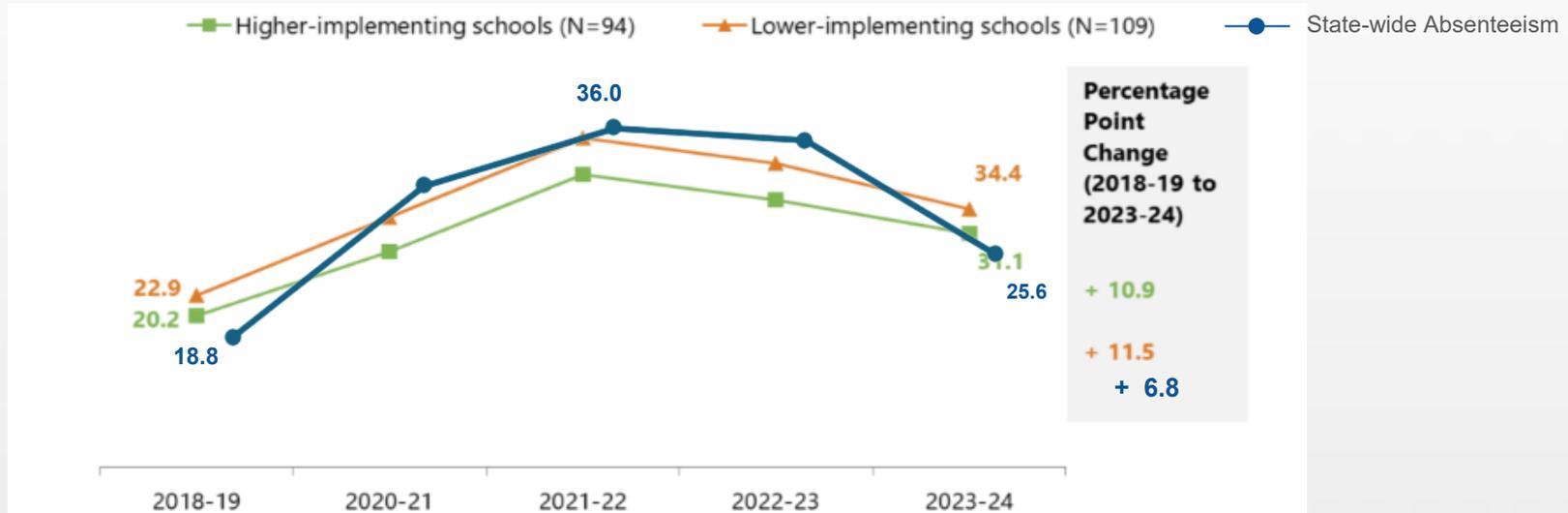
Findings from Nevada Multi-Tiered Systems of Support (MTSS) Evaluation Report - ADA

Trends in Average Daily Attendance Rates (Nevada State Report Card Data)*



Findings from Nevada Multi-Tiered Systems of Support (MTSS) Evaluation Report - CAR

Trends in Chronic Absenteeism Rates (Nevada State Report Card Data)*



*Note: the state reported a "<5" rate in one or more years for 105 of the 650 schools with matched chronic absenteeism data across years. Rather than treating them as missing, these schools were included in the analyses with a rate of 1.079 (5 minus a quarter standard deviation of the rate across schools).

Key Strategies to Improve School Attendance

- Braided Funding (Federal/State support)
- Evidence Based Practices
- Attendance Works Resources
- Family and Community Engagement
- State Agency and Community Collaboration
- Aligning interventions to a Multi-Tiered System of Supports (MTSS) framework
- Data Monitoring



Advancing Student Success By Reducing Chronic Absence



STAKEHOLDER
COLLABORATION



Engaged Partners and Bright Spots

<u>NDE State Partners</u>	<u>Other State & High Ed. Partners</u>	<u>Family & Community Partnerships</u>	<u>Ongoing Workgroups</u>
<p>OSSS - Office of Student and Schools Support</p>	<p>DHCFP - Division of Health Care Financing and Policy (Medicaid)</p>	<p>NV PEP</p>	<p>NDE's Internal Chronic absenteeism workgroup</p>
<p>OSRLE- Office for a Safe and Respectful Learning Environment</p>	<p>University of Nevada, Reno (UNR) PBIS - MTSS team</p>	<p>Strengthen Our Community</p>	<p>50% Attendance Works Challenge</p>
<p>EDLiFE - Office of Educator Development, Licensure, and Parental Involvement and Family Engagement</p>	<p>University of Nevada, Reno (UNR) Human Development & Family Science</p>	<p>Education Alliance</p>	<p>Safer Communities Grant Workgroups (2)</p>
<p>OCSS - Office of Comprehensive Student Services</p>	<p>University of Nevada, Las Vegas (UNLV)</p>	<p>Children's Cabinet</p>	<p>Nevada's Coalition to Address Personnel Shortages in Special Education and Related Services (NSHA)</p>
<p>OELD - Office of Early Learning & Development</p>	<p>Nevada State University (NSU) Nevada Speech-Language-Hearing Association (NSHA)</p>	<p>Communities in Schools</p> <p>Children's Mental Health Consortiums - Rural, Washoe, and Clark</p>	<p>Thrive & Sustain Initiative</p> <p>Family Engagement Advisory Council (ACFFE)</p>



Stronger Connections, Technical Assistance, Collaboration (SCTAC) Grant Funding

Reducing chronic absenteeism through a MTSS framework emphasizing mentorship, home visiting, and family engagement.

Goal:

Reduce chronic absenteeism by 5% annually in high-need LEAs across Nevada, targeting a total decrease of 15 to 20% over the three year grant period

Key Objectives:

- Utilize evidence-based interventions to support K–12 students showing early signs of disengagement by building trusted relationships, monitoring progress, providing targeted interventions, and strengthening family involvement.
- Build local capacity through training and coaching programs, including a university course on home visiting and mentorship in partnership with University of Nevada, Reno (UNR).
- Develop a sustainable, scalable model through a train-the-trainer approach and workforce development in collaboration with the UNR and community partners.
- Engage families and communities to support student attendance and mental wellness.



University of Nevada, Reno



HUMAN SERVICES



Children's Cabinet



NEVADA
Department of
Education

Check & Connect: Tier 2/3 Intervention

Check & Connect is a proven mentoring program that pairs students with trained mentors who regularly “check in” on their progress and “connect” with families and educators to build strong, trusting relationships.

How It Helps Reduce Chronic Absenteeism

- Provides consistent support and encouragement to students at risk of disengaging from school
- Strengthens communication between families and schools
- Identifies barriers to attendance early and connects families with needed resources
- Builds relationships that keep students motivated, supported, and attending school

Nevada’s Commitment

- Training educators statewide as mentors through professional development and “train-the-trainer” model
- Aligning with UNR’s MTSS team and developing a university course to grow the workforce pipeline
- Leveraging braided state funding to expand access to Check & Connect across Nevada schools



Supported by: NDE’s OSSS & OSRLE

Parental Involvement and Family Engagement

Building Connections & Networks

- Create a family engagement network that connects school districts, charter schools, & private schools
- The Advisory Council for Family Engagement (ACFFE) - school districts will share successful strategies that promote Parental Involvement & Family Engagement (PIFE).
- Engage in district discussions for NEPF (Nevada Educator Performance Framework), focusing on two-way communication between educators & families.

Enhancing Communication & Transitions

- Engage in district discussions on the Nevada Educator Performance Framework (NEPF) with a focus on two-way communication between educators & families
- Capitalize on Parent University to deliver content on the importance of attendance
- Leverage Parent Teacher Home Visiting to build trust and support student attendance
- Support Middle School Transition Meetings for families
- Continue support for Kindergarten Transition Meetings

Supporting Tier I: SEL & Attendance

Strong school climate and Social Emotional Learning (SEL) supports create conditions that encourage consistent attendance and reduce chronic absenteeism by fostering safe, supportive, and engaging school environments.

Key Priorities to Support Attendance:

- Develop SEL Standards that reinforce belonging, connection, and student engagement.
- Provide professional learning for educators on integrating SEL strategies into daily classroom practices to strengthen relationships.
- Use MTSS framework to align SEL and restorative practices that prevent disengagement and reduce absenteeism.

SEL Practices that Promote Attendance:

- **Collaborative Learning** – Build peer connections and motivation to attend
- **Explicit SEL Instruction** – Teach self-management and decision-making skills to overcome attendance barriers
- **Family Partnerships** – Equip families with tools and resources to support attendance at home
- **Restorative Practices** – Supportive & Restorative Practices: Reduce suspensions that contribute to absenteeism by using relationship-centered approaches.

Improve Teacher Retention

Why It Matters

Retain and support effective educators to build stable, engaging learning environments

Expand access to high-quality educators to close opportunity gaps, strengthen instruction, and keep students engaged and attending school



Supported by: NDE's OSRLE & OED

Community & Business Partnerships

- Engage with schools near your business
- Adopt a school and provide support tailored to their needs
- Promote teacher appreciation on company signs
- Offer teacher discounts
- Support teacher campaigns through ed-alliance.org

Milestones and Road Ahead



- **Collaboration Drives Impact**
Our strongest progress comes through collaboration with key partners such as DHHS, DPBH, the Children’s Cabinet, NDE departments, university partners, and Communities In Schools. Together, we align efforts and maximize resources to support student success.
- **Workforce Development & Professional Learning**
We strengthen Nevada’s workforce pipeline through a statewide professional learning series and a UNR partnership that builds local capacity in evidence-based practices, family engagement, and mentorship.
- **Sustainable Solutions Through Braided Funding**
We strengthen long-term impact by leveraging braided funding, combining federal and state resources to support a future statewide chronic absenteeism campaign, ensuring long-term, coordinated impact.

Resources



[Go to Grow –
Addressing Chronic
Absenteeism](#)



[Handouts for
Families](#)



[Teens and
Their Families](#)



[Nevada's Family
Engagement Guide](#)



Thank you for joining!

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