

#### **Agenda**

- About ERA and the Research Roundup Webinar Series
- Research on the importance of attendance and barriers to attendance
- How we measure and monitor attendance in SDP
- Attendance data trends
- Research we've done and are doing on attendance
- Q & A

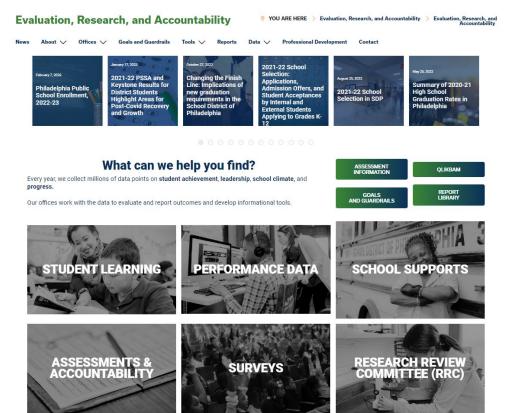
#### This webinar is being recorded.

The recording and a PDF of the slide deck will be available at: <a href="mailto:philasd.org/research/roundup">philasd.org/research/roundup</a>

Please introduce yourself in the chat!

#### **Evaluation, Research, and Accountability**

#### philasd.org/era



Office of Research and Evaluation

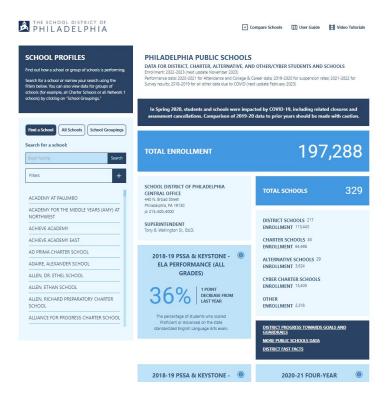
**District Performance Office** 

Planning and Evidence-Based Supports Office

Office of Assessments

Office of Data Governance

#### **Evaluation, Research, and Accountability**



#### philasd.org/opendata

#### School Information

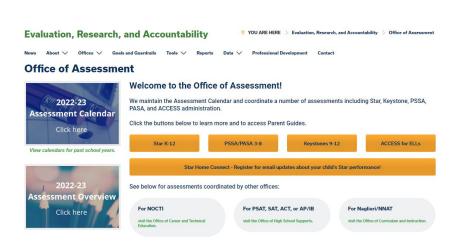
Click below to expand the table to view a description of the data and download a data set for a specific school year. You can also download a Zip file that contains all available years for a specific School Information category.

The public release of this data supports our goals to promote greater transparency and community engagement. Before accessing these data, please review the Terms and Conditions.

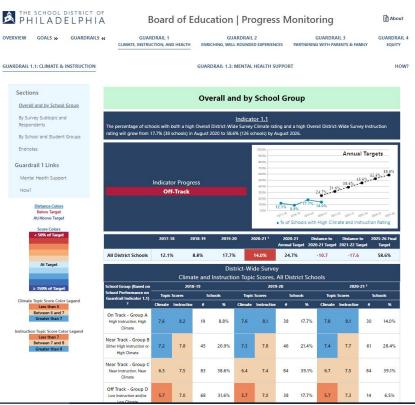




#### **Evaluation, Research, and Accountability**



philasd.org/era/assessment/



#### Office of Research and Evaluation









phledresearch.org

## What is a Research Roundup?

- Regular webinar series with a topical focus
- Videos and slide decks available from previous sessions
- Sign up to be notified when webinars are scheduled and when recordings are available

www.philasd.org/research/roundup

	Previous Rou	undup T	Горісѕ
Mar 2022	Literacy Performance in Grades K-3	July 2022	English Learners and Students in Special Education
April 2022 •+ •×	Math Performance in Grades 3-8	Oct 2022	PERC Report: Keystone Graduation Pathways
May 2022	9th Grade "On Track" Rates and High School Graduation	Dec 2022	District-Wide Surveys
June 2022	Food Insecurity in the School District of Philadelphia	Feb 2023	Philadelphia Police School Diversion Program

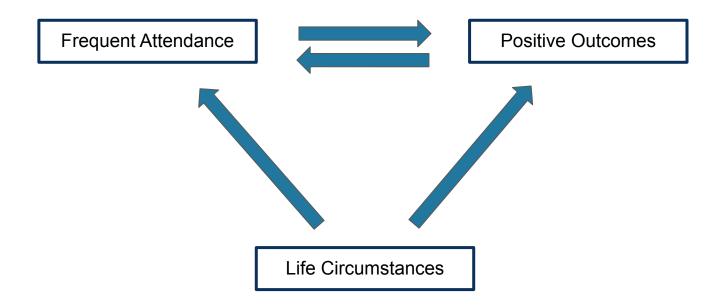
#### **Goals for This Presentation**

#### **Attendees will better understand:**

- 1. Existing research on both the importance of student attendance and the barriers to consistent attendance
- 2. How SDP measures and monitors student attendance
- 3. Recent attendance trends in SDP
- 4. Our current and past research on attendance

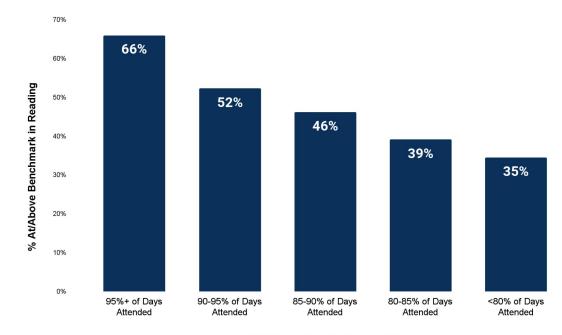
## Research on the Importance of Student Attendance

## Frequent attendance is associated with positive outcomes.



## In SDP, the fewer days of school a child misses, the more likely they are to read on grade level at the end of the year.

- Kindergarteners who attend school consistently are more likely to read on grade level by the end of kindergarten. This trend continues in first grade.
- Kindergarteners who are chronically absent in kindergarten are likely to continue to be chronically absent in later grades.

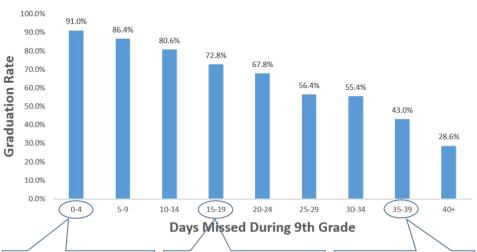


Attendance Rate in Kindergarden

### 9th grade attendance is closely tied to graduation rates.

- The better a student's attendance in 9th grade, the higher the probability that they will graduate on time.
- No matter what a student's attendance rate is, a few more absences is associated with a meaningful drop in graduation rate.
- Even if a student misses a lot of school early in the year, strong attendance during the second half of the school year dramatically improves their chances of graduating on time.

#### 5 Additional Absences In 9th Grades Means a Lower Graduation Rate



"I was sick for a couple of days in the fall, but those are the only days I missed."

"Once or twice a month I take a day off, and I was sick a couple of times."

"Most weeks I take Friday off."



9 out of 10 Graduate



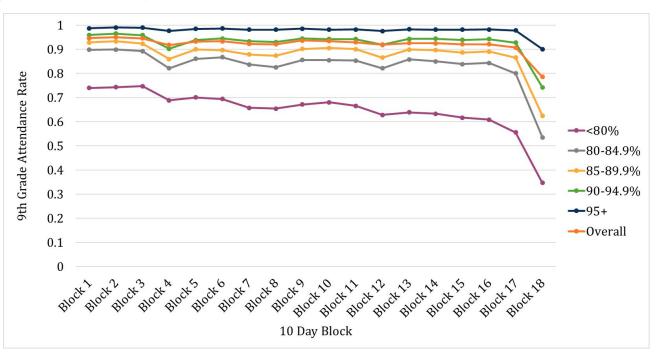
7 out of 10 Graduate



4 out of 10 Graduate

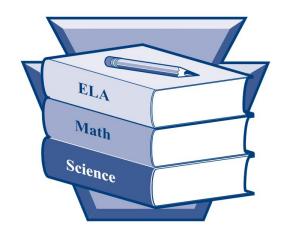
#### PERC reports about attendance and 9th grade

- 8th grade attendance predicts 9th grade on-track status.
- Overall 9th grade attendance patterns are generally consistent with patterns established in the first couple months of 9th grade.



### SDP students with better attendance perform better on the ELA PSSA.

- Students scoring Advanced on the third grade ELA
   PSSA have an average daily attendance (ADA) of 97%,
   compared with 92% for students scoring Below Basic.
- Controlling for student demographics and prior reading levels, every one percentage point increase in ADA is associated with a 5% increase in the odds that a student will score Proficient on the third grade ELA PSSA.



#### Regular attendance is associated with benefits at many stages.



Students who regularly attend school are **more likely to read on grade level** by the end of 3rd grade. Students who can read at grade by this time are **4x more likely to complete high school** than students who can't.



Students who regularly attend school every year between 8th and 12th grade are **7x more likely to complete high school**. The more years a student is chronically absent the more likely they are to drop out.



Completing high school is associated with **positive outcomes throughout life** including making more money, living longer, and not being incarcerated.

## **Research on Barriers to Student Attendance**

### National <u>research</u> on chronic absenteeism highlights clear trends and disparities.

- In 2015-16, nearly 8 million students were chronically absent. This equates to 16% or 1 in 6 school-aged children.
- In the 2020-21 school year, post-pandemic, at least 10.1 million students nationwide were chronically absent.
- Children living in poverty are two to three times more likely to be chronically absent than their peers from more affluent families.
- Students with disabilities are 50% more likely to be chronically absent than students without disabilities.

#### National Data on the % of students who are chronically absent

Race/Ethnicity	Chronically Absent
Native American	26%
Pacific Islander	23%
Black/African American	21%
Two or more races	18%
Hispanic	17%
White	15%
Asian	9%

Nationally, **chronic absence** is defined as missing 10 percent or more of school days due to absence for any reason—excused absences, unexcused absences, and suspensions.

Students who...

1

Cannot Attend

2

Will Not Attend

3

Do Not Attend

#### **Cannot Attend**

- Poverty related issues
- Lack of resources
- Chronic illness
- Unreliable transportation
- Housing instability
- Family responsibilities (work, parenting, childcare, etc.)
- Family emergencies

Cannot Attend	Will Not Attend
<ul> <li>Poverty related issues</li> </ul>	Fears of safety, exclusion, or negative
<ul><li>Lack of resources</li></ul>	relationships at school or near school
Chronic illness	<ul> <li>Unequal access to quality instruction and academic barriers that result in</li> </ul>
<ul> <li>Unreliable transportation</li> </ul>	disengagement, such as lack of appropriate
<ul> <li>Housing instability</li> </ul>	supports or enrichment opportunities
<ul> <li>Family responsibilities (work, parenting, childcare, etc.)</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Disconnect between student learning and economic opportunity</li> </ul>
Family emergencies	<ul> <li>Lack of teachers who reflect cultures, ethnicities, and languages of the student population</li> </ul>

Cannot Attend	Will Not Attend	Do Not Attend
<ul> <li>Poverty related issues</li> <li>Lack of resources</li> <li>Chronic illness</li> <li>Unreliable transportation</li> <li>Housing instability</li> <li>Family responsibilities (work, parenting, childcare, etc.)</li> <li>Family emergencies</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Fears of safety, exclusion, or negative relationships at school or near school</li> <li>Unequal access to quality instruction and academic barriers that result in disengagement, such as lack of appropriate supports or enrichment opportunities</li> <li>Disconnect between student learning and economic opportunity</li> <li>Lack of teachers who reflect cultures, ethnicities, and languages of the student population</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Students and their families are not aware of the importance of attending school</li> <li>Especially true in the early grades, with kindergarten being viewed as optional</li> <li>Belief that absences are okay as long as they are excused</li> </ul>

## Measuring and Monitoring Student Attendance in SDP

#### SDP looks at student attendance data in various ways.

Metric	What it tells us	Why it is important
The <b>cumulative</b> percentage of students attending 90%+ and 95%+ days	Tells us the % of students with high attendance across the school year	Gives a picture of how much school students are missing overall that might be missed by only looking monthly
Average Daily Attendance (ADA)	Tells us what percentage of students attend school on a typical day	Helps schools track how many students are in attendance on any given day
The percentage of students attending 90%+ days within a month	Tells us the % of students each month that attended 90% or more school days	Highlights monthly trends that could point to specific monthly issues for all or some students



#### Understanding the different types of attendance metrics:

#### **Number of absences**

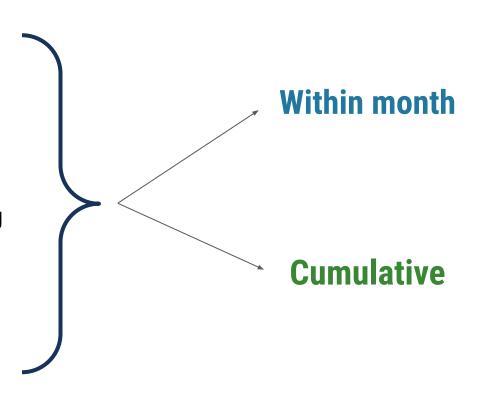
#### **Average Daily Attendance**

(number of instructional days - days absent) / number of instructional days

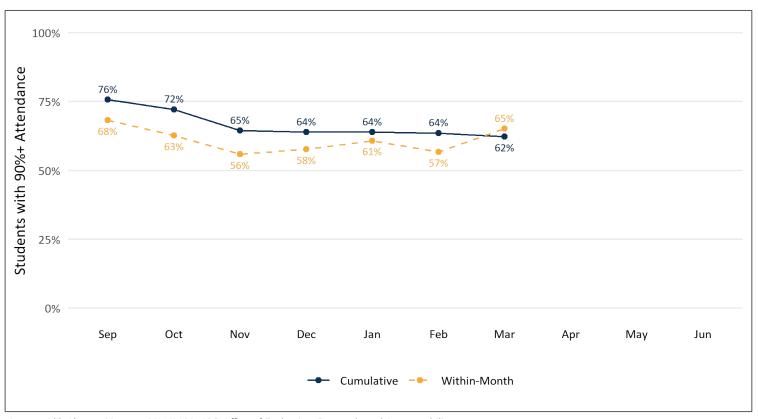
Percentage of students attending 80%, 90%, 95%+ etc.

Percentage/number of students chronically truant

(10+ unexcused absences)



#### **Student 90%+ Attendance Within Month vs. Cumulative: 2022-23**



Source: Qlik Climate Matters, 4/11/2023. SDP Office of Evaluation, Research, and Accountability.

#### **Understanding the different types of attendance metrics:**

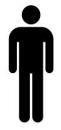
#### Within Month

Students A, B, and C have all missed days in October.....

OCTOBER 2022									
Sun	Mon	Mon Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat			
						1			
2	3	4	*	6	7	8			
9	10	11	12	13	14	15			
16	17	18	19	20	21	22			
23	24	25	26	27	28	29			
30	31								

OCTOBER 2022										
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat				
						1				
2	3	4	5	6	7	8				
9	10	11	12	13	14	15				
16	17	18	19	20	21	22				
23	24	*	*	*	**	29				
30	31									

OCTOBER 2022									
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat			
						1			
2	3	4	5	6	7	8			
9	10	*	*	13	14	15			
16	17	18	19	20	21	22			
23	24	25	26	27	28	29			
30	×								



Student A ADA: 95%



Student B ADA: 81%



Student C ADA: 86%

Number of instructional days = 21

Total number of absences = 8

Average Daily Attendance (ADA) = 91%

Percentage of students attending 90%+ =  $\frac{1}{3}$  = 33%

Percentage/number of students chronically truant\* = 0

\*10+ unexcused absences

#### **Understanding the different types of attendance metrics:**

#### **Cumulative**

Students A, B, and C have missed days since the beginning of the year...

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	

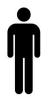
OCTOBER 2022									
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat			
						1			
2	3	4	×	6	7	8			
9	10	11	12	13	14	15			
16	17	18	19	20	21	22			
23	24	25	26	27	28	29			



Student A ADA: 97%



OCTOBER 2022									
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat			
						1			
2	3	4	5	6	7	8			
9	10	11	12	13	14	15			
16	17	18	19	20	21	22			
23	24	*	*	*	*	29			
30	31								



Student B ADA: 74%



OCTOBER 2022										
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat				
						1				
2	3	4	5	6	7	8				
9	10	×	*	13	14	15				
16	17	18	19	20	21	22				
23	24	25	26	27	28	29				
30	×									



Student C ADA: 90%

= First school day

Number of instructional days= 39

Total number of absences = 15

Average Daily Attendance (ADA) = 87%

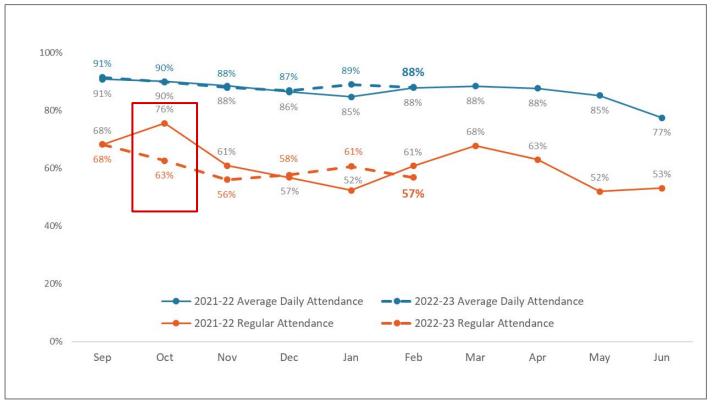
Percentage of students attending  $90\% + = \frac{2}{3} = 66\%$ 

Percentage/number of students chronically truant\* = 1

\*10+ unexcused absences

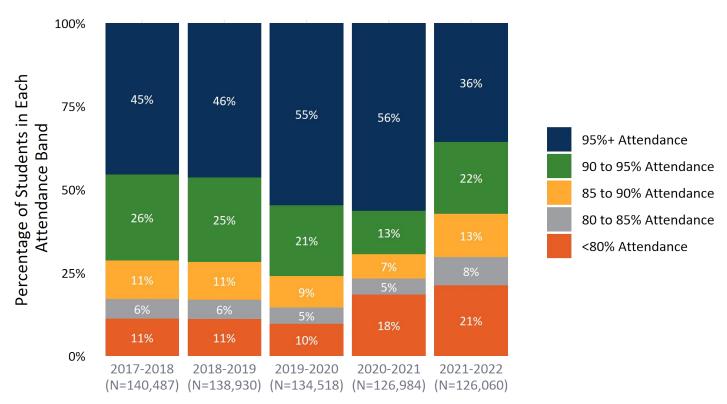
#### Student Attendance Within Month: 2021-22 & 2022-23

In this graph, "regular attendance" is the percentage of students attending 90% or more school days in a month.



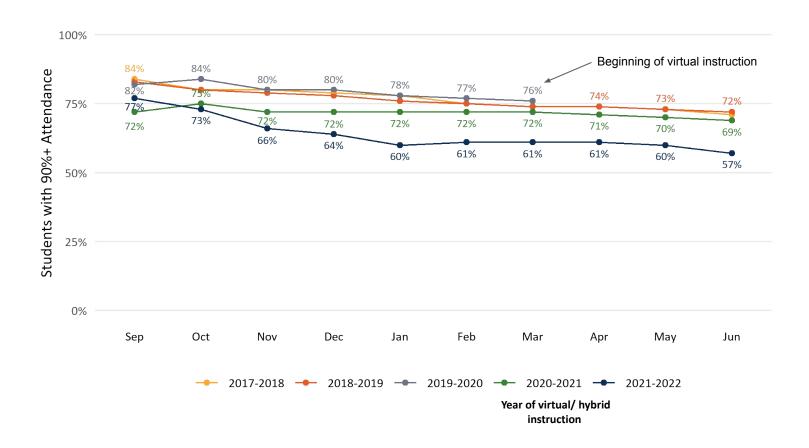
# **Student Attendance Trends Over Time**

#### **Cumulative Attendance Bands: 2017-18 to 2021-22**

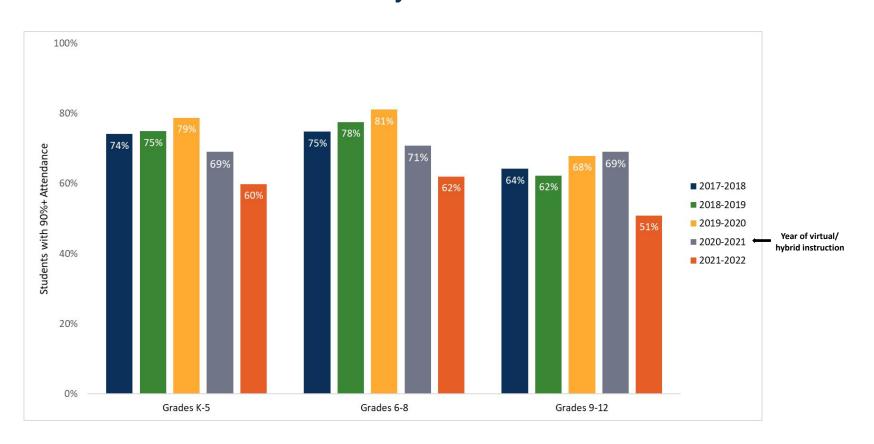


Year of virtual/ hybrid instruction

#### **Cumulative 90%+ Attendance: 2017-18 to 2021-22**



#### Cumulative 90%+ Attendance by Grade Band: 2017-18 to 2021-22



# **Our Current and Past Research on Attendance**

#### **Attendance Mailings: 2014-15 to 2018-19**

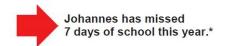
#### A low-cost approach to improving attendance that's grounded in behavioral economics theory:

- Started out as a random control trial in 2014-15 in partnership with Harvard Kennedy School
- Due to the success of the RCT, SDP continued to send mailings through the 2018-19 school year

#### **Learnings from Attendance Mailings:**

- 1. Effective for students in the "will not attend" category
- 2. Targets families' misconceptions about student attendance
- 3. Over the years, reduced absences for targeted students by between 1 and 2 days
- 4. Costs about 5-6 dollars for every additional day students attend

#### **Attendance Mailings: 2014-15 to 2018-19**





Dear Parent/Guardian of Johannes Demarzi.

Attending school every day in 1st Grade will help Johannes learn and stay on track.

Both excused and unexcused absences can cause Johannes to fall behind.

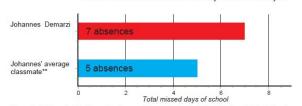
Absences can decrease the chance that students will graduate from high school.

Thank you for continuing to help Johannes attend school as much as possible.

#### Sincerely,

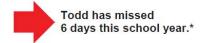
William R. Hite, Jr., Ed.D.
Superintendent
The School District of Philadelphia

Johannes missed more school than many classmates this year



\*The number listed above includes all excused and unexcused absences between the first day of school and 11/15/2017. If you have questions, please email attendancematter@philasd.org, or call (215) 910-4566. If Johannes no longer lives at this address, please discard this mailing. We apploigts for the inconvenience.

\*\*This is the average number of absences for all students at ABC School in 1st Grade.





Dear Parent/Guardian of Todd Rogers,

Attending school every day in 11th Grade will help Todd learn and stay on track.

Both excused and unexcused absences can cause Todd to fall behind.

Absences can decrease the chance that students will graduate from high school.

Thank you for helping Todd attend school as often as possible.

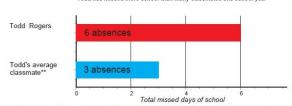
Sincerely,

William R. Hite, Jr., Ed.D.

Superintendent

The School District of Philadelphia

Todd has missed more school than many classmates this school year



\*This is the total number of absences (unexcused and excused) between the first day of school and 11/72918. We understund that students cometimes miss school due to lifese, regious boldsys, or emergencies. Please discuss in advance with your students school and health provider when to keep your student at home. Please call (215) 914-9021 to be connected to additional resources. If Todd no longer lives at this address, please disregard this mailing. We apologize for the inconvenience.

<sup>\*\*</sup>This is the average number of absences for all students at Any High School in 11th Grade.

#### Attendance Ambassadors: 2016-17 and 2017-18

- Partnership with Read by 4th to address barriers to chronic absenteeism in early grades in six schools
- Ambassadors were paid members of school community who helped ensure families were aware of importance
  of attendance and how it connects to reading achievement and collected information on barriers to attendance
  to help families problem-solve challenges

#### Findings from two years of Action Research

- 1. Primary barriers included district-wide half days, transportation issues, lack of family resources (clean uniforms, coats, etc.), and lack of knowledge about the importance of attendance in early grades.
- 2. Parents may not be aware of the importance of kindergarten or the relationship between attendance in the early grades and academic achievement.
- 3. Consistent, individualized communication with parents is important both in identifying barriers to attendance and identifying resources needed to improve attendance.
- 4. Incentives are important to recognizing both consistent attendance and improvements in attendance.

#### Attendance Ambassadors: 2016-17 and 2017-18

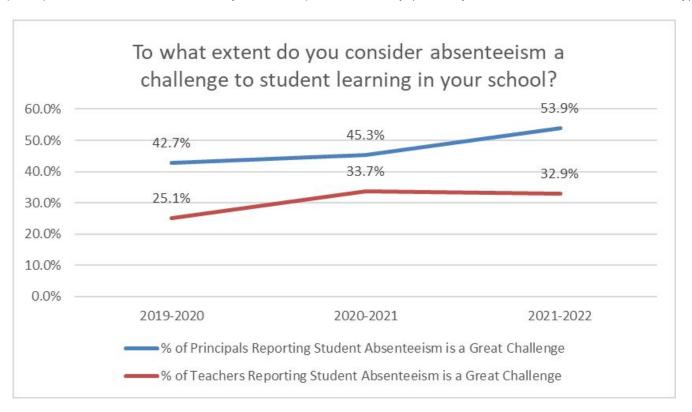






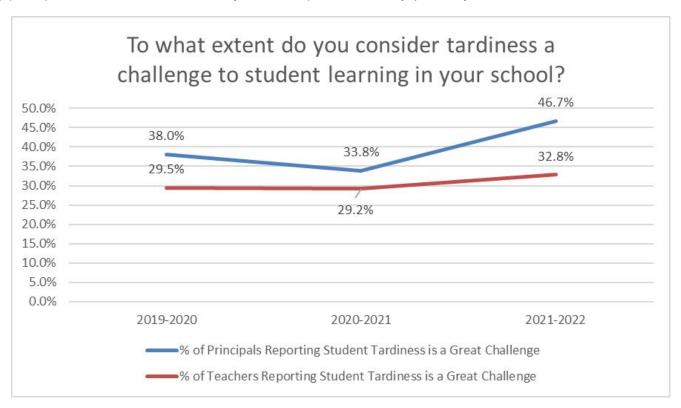
#### Challenges of Absenteeism: 2019-20 to 2021-22

As reported by principals and teachers on the Philly School Experience Survey (formerly known as the District-Wide Survey)



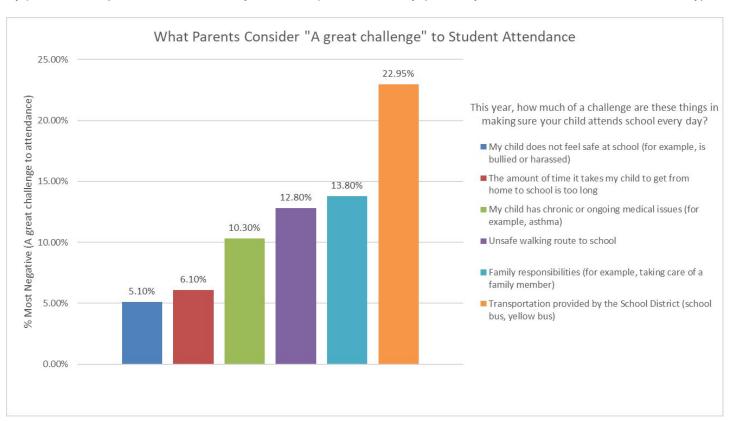
#### Challenges of Tardiness: 2019-20 to 2021-22

As reported by principals and teachers on the Philly School Experience Survey (formerly known as the District-Wide Survey)



#### **Challenges to Student Attendance: 2021-22**

As reported by parents and guardians on the Philly School Experience Survey (formerly known as the District-Wide Survey)



#### Resources

#### **ORE Reports and Briefs on Attendance**

- Kindergarten Attendance and Reading On Grade Level
- 9th Grade Attendance and Graduation
- School-Level Student Attendance Patterns During
   Digital Learning, 2020-21

#### **PERC Reports on Attendance**

- Ready from the Start: Identifying and Supporting At-Risk
   Ninth Graders from their Earliest Days in High School
- Present from the Start: Ninth Grade Attendance Patterns in the School District of Philadelphia, 2015-2017

#### Regional Educational Laboratory Program: Impact Study

 A Randomized Experiment Using <u>Absenteeism Information to</u> <u>"Nudge" Attendance</u>

#### Publicly Available SDP Attendance Data

- School Profiles
- School Progress Report on Education and Equity (SPREE)
- Open Data