

ATTENDANCE

DIG DEEPER

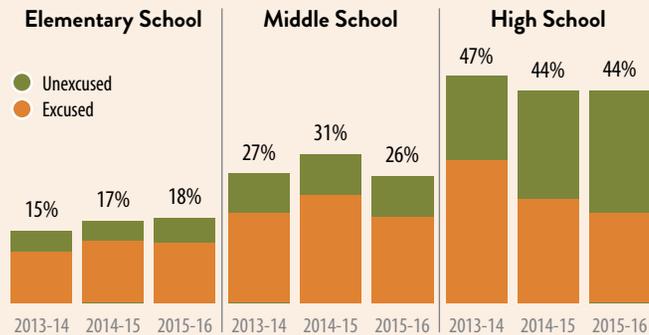
Chronic Absence: Mixed Results

As students approach and enter high school, rates of chronic absence start to climb. Absences begin a marked incline in ninth grade – especially unexcused ones. For students in poverty, those rates are even higher, with an average of 17 unexcused absences in their senior year.

Excused absences for high school students have decreased, which has improved the overall rate, but we see that unexcused absences are on an incline.

As we can see below, absence for elementary children has increased slightly overall. This is of concern as we consider the factors that impact third grade literacy, because we know every minute counts.

CHRONIC ABSENCE (18+ DAYS) UNEXCUSED VS EXCUSED ABSENCES



DIG DEEPER: Visit GraduateTacoma.org/Data to dig deeper into the attendance data!

KEY FINDINGS

Absence More Prevalent for Children in Poverty

The rates of chronic absence for TPS K-12 students have remained stagnant since 2013-14. Gaps also are relatively constant. As in so many of our other indicators, poverty plays a significant role in a student's absence/attendance ratio. By the time they reach high school, nearly 60% of students in poverty are struggling with attendance, as compared to just 34% of their non-poverty counterparts.

The good news about school attendance may seem like a no-brainer: When kids attend school every day, they're more likely to succeed in school and life. Absences (18 or more days per school year is considered chronic absence) add up when we consider barriers to student success. This is true as early as elementary school, when students are at a higher risk of falling behind in reading.

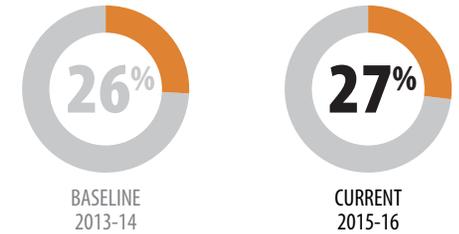
Last year, Graduate Tacoma's Early Learning and Reading Network developed an attendance awareness campaign on which they plan to build in the future. The message is simple: Every minute counts.



Source: Tacoma Public School District

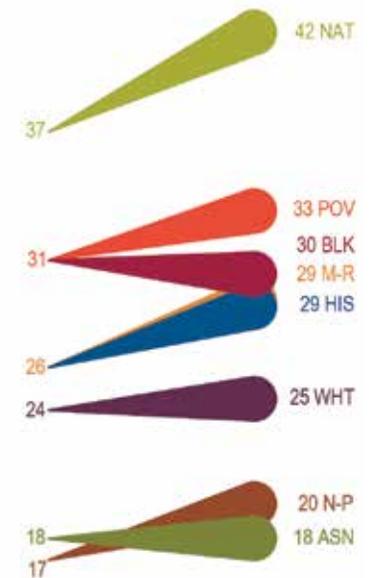
DATA DIVE

↑ CHRONIC ABSENCE



AIMING HIGHER GOAL: Decrease the percentage of students who are chronically absent – missing 10% of the school year (18 days or more).

% BY POVERTY, RACE, & ETHNICITY



BASELINE 2013-14 CURRENT 2015-16