

COMMUNITY INDICATOR

ATTENDANCE

By middle school, missing 18 days or more of the school year (chronic absence) has been found to be a leading indicator that a student will drop out of high school. Several factors come into play around attendance. Nationally, children living in poverty are four times as likely to be chronically absent than their more affluent peers. Often this is for reasons beyond their families' control, like unstable housing or unreliable transportation. Furthermore, parents who are not engaged in their kids' school life, in many cases due to language barriers or demanding work schedules, have a much harder time seeing the impact of missed school on their child's success.

While Tacoma Public Schools has some of the highest rates of chronic absences in the region, there have been some improvements in the last year. Chronic absence has declined across all high school grades. Most notably, TPS seniors saw a decrease in chronic absence from 54 to 44 percent.

Reaching Students Where They Need Us

Kids with more obstacles to reaching full attendance don't have to be another statistic given the right in- and out-of-school supports.

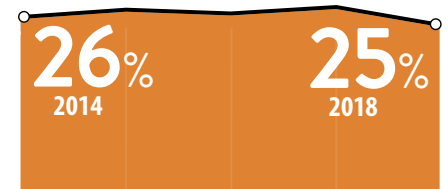
Over the last eight years, Tacoma students have consistently experienced spikes in absences entering middle school and high school, continuing into their high school experience. During the 2017-18 school year, freshman students saw a lower improvement in chronic absences compared to students in grades 10-12. Catching students during these transitions is critical to improving rates across all secondary grade levels, ultimately improving high school graduation and postsecondary enrollment rates.

Meanwhile, the racial gap continues to be a major challenge to achieving improved attendance rates. At four of Tacoma's high schools, more than half of the Black student population is truant in each school. Pacific Islander students are experiencing similar circumstances, as 38 percent have chronic absences in 2018 across all grades and schools.

DATA TRENDS

BASELINE TO CURRENT

Chronic Absence, K-12 Average

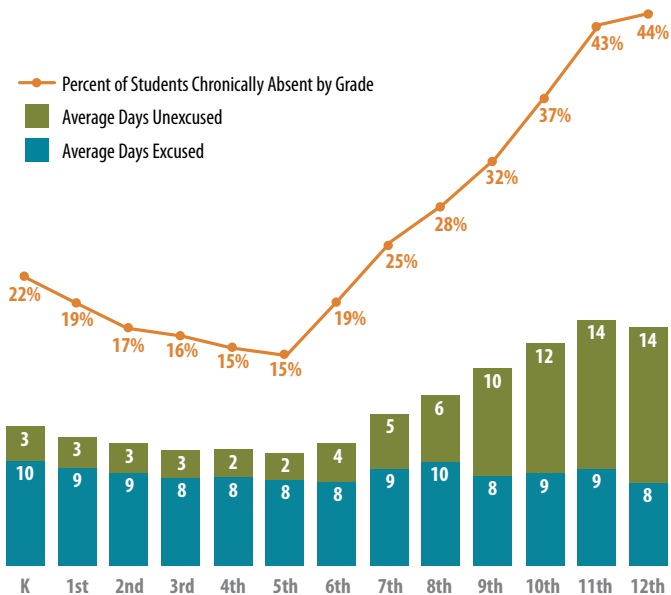


AIMING HIGHER GOAL: Decrease the percentage of students who are chronically absent – missing 10 percent (18 days) or more of the school year, excused or unexcused.

MULTI-YEAR GAPS Represents the increase or decrease in the achievement gap between students of color and White students and between students in poverty and those not in poverty, baseline to current.

CHRONIC ABSENCE (18+ DAYS) IN 2017-18

UNEXCUSED VS EXCUSED ABSENCES

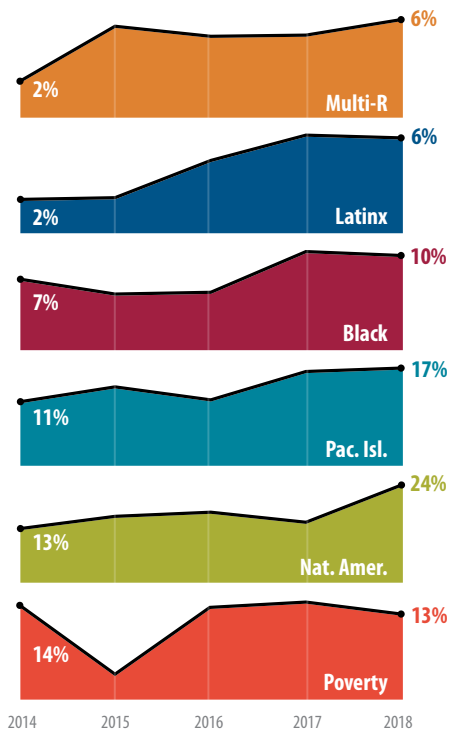
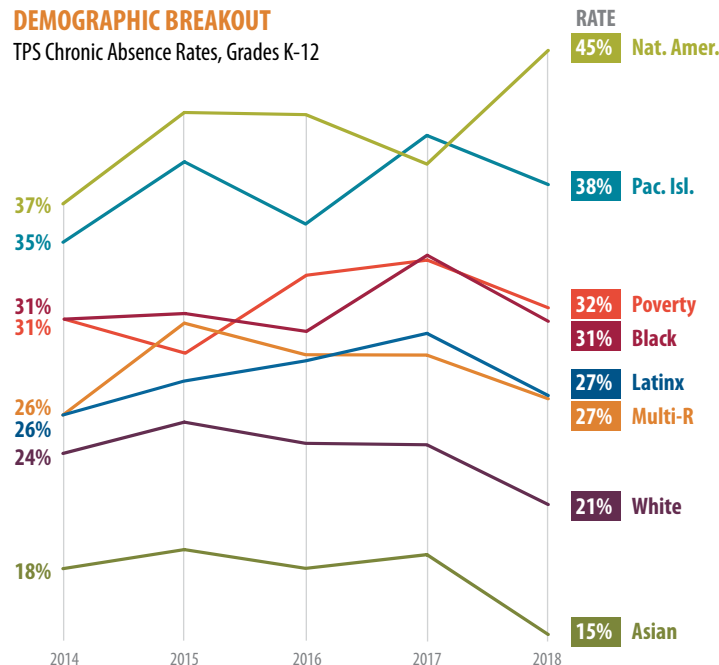


DIG DEEPER:

Visit GraduateTacoma.org/Data to dig deeper into the data!

DEMOGRAPHIC BREAKOUT

TPS Chronic Absence Rates, Grades K-12



Note: Asian students historically always perform above White students.

Data Source: TPS raw files