WEST CHICAGO
ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS
Reach Higher. Achieve Together.
Alcanza Más. Logrando Juntos.

TO Board of Education
FROM Cathy Park, Director of Assessment and Accountability
DATE November 13, 2026
SUBJECT Monthly Chronic Absenteeism Memo

This memo is:

- ☑ Information only.
- ☐ Information with a recommendation, and a request for Board consent.
- ☐ Information with a recommendation, and a request for Board approval by vote.

Date by which a Board decision is needed:

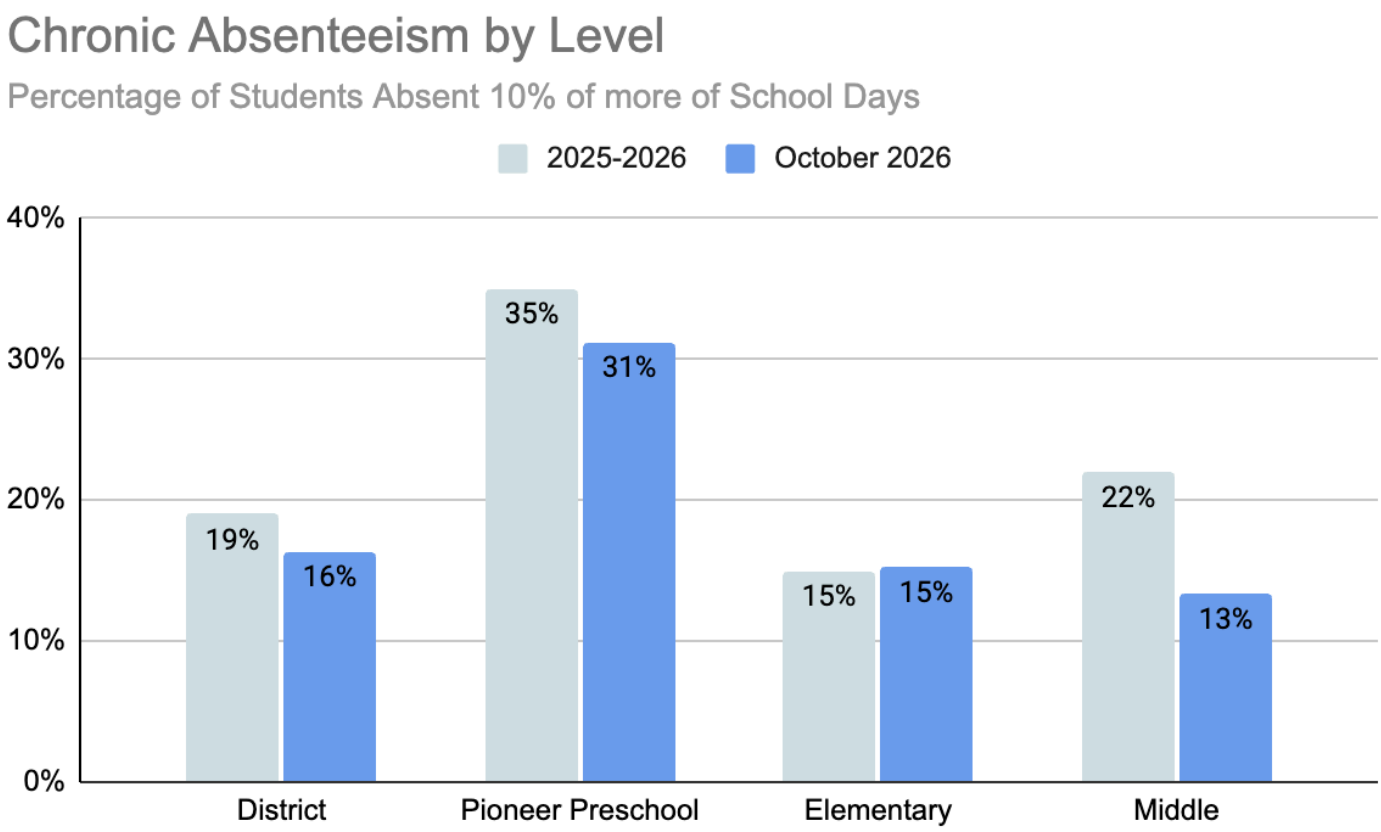
Previous memos on this topic can be found:

- ☐ in previous Board packet(s) dated:
- ☐ or attached to this memo

Basic Information/Overview	As of November 13, 2026, we have been in school for 5 days, and the districtwide chronic absenteeism rate is at 16%. Students missing 10% or more of the school days are considered chronically absent. These percentages include both excused and unexcused absences. Please see the following charts for a breakdown by grade-level bands and by each grade level. With the end of the 1st trimester, attendance teams have worked to share or send home attendance letters for students who have been absent at least 10% of the school year. Assistant principals are continuing to work with teams to track and monitor student attendance at the building level. The teams are actively working to monitor attendance, inform families of any attendance concerns, and take the time to support families as needed so students can come to school each day. They also continue to implement school-wide attendance incentives to promote perfect attendance.
Strategic Plan Goal Alignment	Goal 2 - We want all our students to be present so they can engage in meaningful learning experiences throughout the school year. Goal 1 - This will also impact Goal 1 and improving student achievement if students are present for learning each day.
Background or historical information	Our school report cards were published on October 30, 2026. According to the Illinois School Report Card, District 33 had a chronic absenteeism rate of 20.9%, compared to the state average of 23.5%. Our truancy rate was 16.5%, whereas the state average was 19.3%. Starting with the 2026 School Report Card, the state will start to track consistent attendance rates and not chronic absenteeism rates. The district'has 79.1% of their

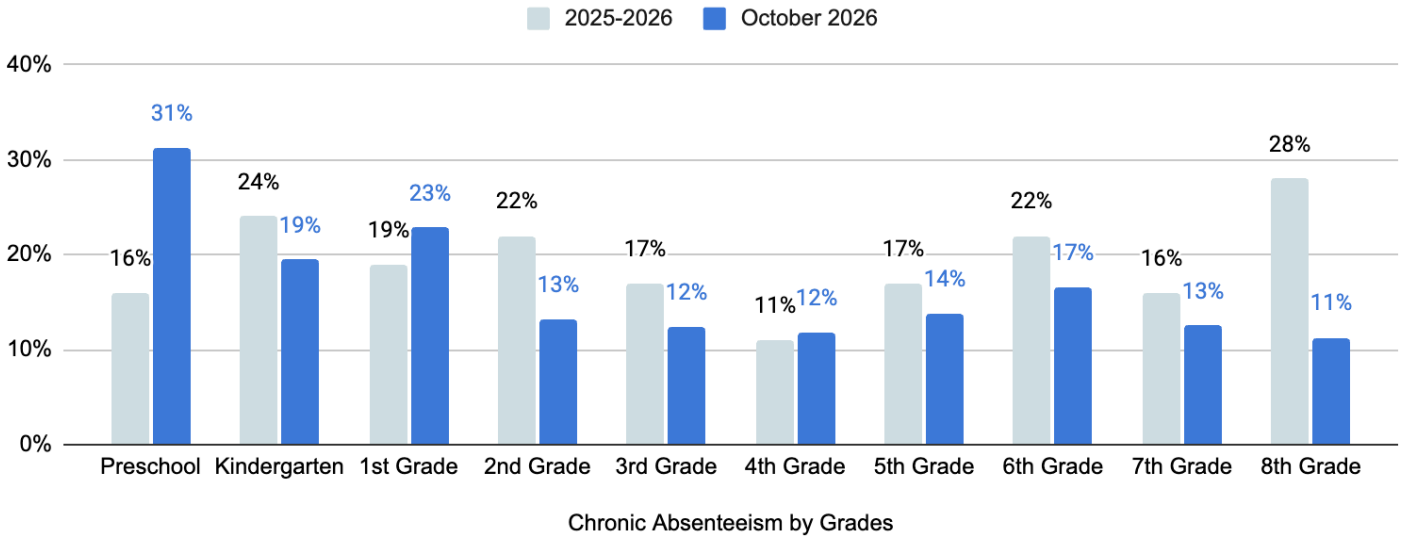
	students who are consistently present at school each day, with the state average being 76.5%.

Previous decisions, actions or parameters that relate to this topic or issue	
Recommendation	
Other Questions	



Chronic Absenteeism by Grades

Percentage of Students Absent 10% of more of School Days



Chronic Absenteeism by Grades