



## JTHS Attendance Initiatives January 21, 2025

# Action Plan 3.2

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**Strategy:** We will implement a holistic approach to supporting students through family, community, and student engagement, targeted supports, and flexible learning opportunities to improve student attendance and academic performance

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**Specific Result:** Increase the attendance rate to 90% or greater by implementing proactive, positive and collaborative approaches and programs.



# Chronic Absenteeism Data

Campus	% of Students who miss 10% or more of school days per year
Joliet Central	57.0% (2022-2023) → 57.3% (2023-2024)
Joliet West	43.0% (2022-2023) → 45.2% (2023-2024)

% of Students who miss 10% or more of school days per year									
Campus	White	Black	Hispanic	Two or More	Female	Male	Non-Binary	Children with Disabilities	English Learners
Joliet Central									
2023-2024	49.2%	60%	57.8%	68.9%	58.2%	56.3%	No Data	57%	60.6%
2022-2023	46.5%	62.2%	57.5%	63.5%	59.3%	54.9%	No Data	56%	59.5%
Joliet West									
2023-2024	34.2%	54.1%	47.8%	46.9%	45.8%	44.6%	No Data	52.8%	51.7%
2022-2023	34.9%	48.2%	48.4%	40.2%	44.8%	41.2%	No Data	50.1%	52.3%

# Focus for 2024-2025



Expand communication regarding the importance of consistent attendance, utilizing a common theme/message.



Solidify and communicate clear roles and responsibilities of administrators, teachers, and staff pertaining to improving student attendance.



Develop detailed plans to address each unique attendance challenge (full-day, part-day, period, late arrival, etc.).

## Communication – Creating a Culture of Attendance

- Back to School Resources (JTHS website)
- Superintendent's and Principal's Welcome Back Messages
- Freshman Orientation
- Welcome Back Week
- Parent Orientation/Meetings
- Community Meetings



#### AT JTHS:

- ✓ Every Student Matters.
- ✓ Attendance Matters.
- ✓ Every Student, Every Day, Every Minute.

Showing up for school has a huge impact on a student's academic success. Even as children grow older and more independent, families play a key role in making sure students get to school every day and understand why attendance is so important for success in school and on the job.

#### DID YOU KNOW?

- Students should miss no more than 9 days of school each year to stay engaged, successful and on track to graduation.
- Frequent absences can be a sign that a student is losing interest in school, struggling with schoolwork, dealing with a bully or facing some other difficulty.
- By 9th grade, attendance is a better predictor of graduation rates than 8th grade test scores.
- Missing 10%, or 2 days a month, over the course of the school year, can affect a student's academic success.

#### WHAT CAN FAMILIES DO?

##### Make school attendance a priority.

- Talk about the importance of showing up to school every day.
- Help your children maintain daily routines, including getting a good night's sleep.
- Try not to schedule dental and non-urgent related medical appointments during the school day.
- If your children must stay home because they are sick, make sure they have contacted teachers for resources, materials, and missed assignments and/or assessments.

##### Help your teen stay engaged

- Find out if your student feels engaged by their classes, and feels safe at school.
- Make sure your student is not missing class because of challenges with behavioral issues or school discipline policies. If any of these are problems, contact the school and we will work with you and your student to find a solution.
- Monitor your student's academic progress and seek help from teachers or tutors when necessary. Make sure teachers know how to contact you.
- Be aware of your student's social contacts. Peer pressure can lead to skipping school, while students without many friends can feel isolated.
- Encourage your student to join meaningful after-school activities, including sports and clubs.
- Support your student if you notice signs of anxiety by contacting the school so we can provide resources, interventions, and support.

##### Communicate with the school

- Know the school's attendance policies and procedures.
- Check on your child's attendance to be sure absences are not adding up.
- Seek help from school staff if you need support.

\*Content Source: Attendance Works



#### EN JTHS:

- ✓ Cada Estudiante es Importante
- ✓ Asistencia es Importante
- ✓ Cada Estudiante, Cada Día, Cada Minuto

Presentarse a clases tiene un enorme impacto con el éxito académico de los estudiantes. Incluso cuando los jóvenes crecen y se hacen más independientes, las familias desempeñan un papel fundamental a la hora de garantizar que los estudiantes vayan a la escuela todos los días y comprendan por qué la asistencia es tan importante para el éxito escolar y en el empleo.

#### ¿SABÍA USTED?

- Los estudiantes no deberían faltar a la escuela más de 9 días por año para mantenerse comprometidos, exitosos y en camino a la graduación.
- Las ausencias frecuentes pueden ser una señal de que los estudiantes están perdiendo interés en la escuela, tienen dificultades con las tareas escolares, están enfrentándose con algún intimidador o con alguna otra dificultad.
- En 9º grado, la asistencia es un mejor indicador de las tasas de graduación que los resultados de los exámenes de 8º grado.
- Faltar un 10%, o 2 días al mes, a lo largo del año escolar, puede afectar al éxito Académico de los estudiantes.

#### ¿QUÉ PUEDEN HACER LAS FAMILIAS?

##### Hacer de la asistencia a la escuela una prioridad.

- Hable sobre la importancia de ir a la escuela todos los días.
- Ayude a sus hijos a mantener rutinas diarias, incluyendo dormir bien por la noche.
- Trate de no programar las citas con el dentista ni las citas médicas que no sean urgentes durante el día escolar.
- Si sus hijos tienen que quedarse en casa porque están enfermos, asegúrese de que se han comunicado con los maestros para pedirles recursos, materias y tareas y/o exámenes pendientes.

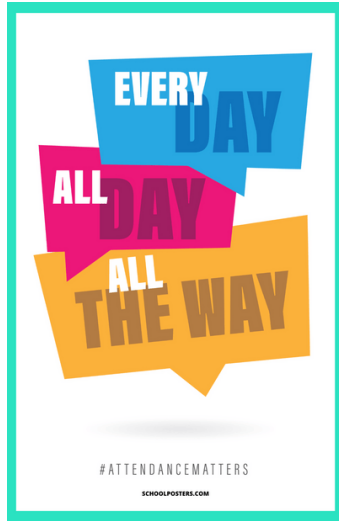
##### Ayude a su adolescente a mantenerse comprometido

- Averigüe si su estudiante se siente comprometido con sus clases y se siente seguro en la escuela.
- Asegúrese de que su estudiante no esté faltando a clase debido a problemas de comportamiento o a las políticas de disciplina de la escuela. Si tiene alguno de estos problemas, póngase en contacto con la escuela y trabajaremos con usted y su estudiante para encontrar una solución.
- Vigile el progreso académico de su estudiante y pida ayuda a los maestros o tutores cuando sea necesario. Asegúrese de que los maestros sepan cómo comunicarse con usted.
- Esté al tanto de las comunicaciones sociales de su estudiante. La presión de los compañeros puede provocar que falte a clase, y los estudiantes sin muchos amigos pueden sentirse solos.
- Anime a su estudiante a participar en actividades extraescolares productivas, como deportes y clubes.
- Si detecta signos de ansiedad en su estudiante, comuníquese con la escuela para que podamos proporcionarle recursos, intervenciones y apoyo.

##### Comuníquese con la escuela

- Conozca la política y los procedimientos de asistencia de la escuela.
- Vigile la asistencia de su estudiante para asegurarse de que no se acumulan las ausencias.
- Pida ayuda del personal de la escuela si necesita apoyo.

\*Fuente del Información: Attendance Works





# Parent/Guardian Communication

## Daily

- Period absences and tardies (robo call and email)

## Monthly

- Chronic absenteeism status report (email)  
\*new in 24-25

## Cumulative

- Targeted communication at full-day absences of 4, 7, 11, 18 days. (printed letters)



# Monthly Chronic Absenteeism Status Report

Dear [Parent Name],

To encourage and improve our overall attendance, we will be providing you with regular updates regarding your students' attendance.

Going to school regularly is crucial for your child's success and achievement!

Your student's absenteeism rate is 10% or greater, which, according to the Illinois State Board of Education, means they are considered chronically absent.

Currently, [Student Name] (Student ID: [Student ID Number]) has a chronic absenteeism rate of [Chronic Absenteeism percentage] %.

Let's work together to ensure that your child does not fall behind this school year. Please make sure your child attends school every day and arrives on time to benefit fully from classroom instruction. If you are facing challenges in getting your student to school, please reach out to their Dean, Counselor, or Social Worker.

Getting back into the habit of daily attendance matters more than ever. Going to school is an opportunity for your student to:

- Build routines that help reduce stress.
- Connect with friends and teachers.
- Engage in learning.

Thanksgiving break is approaching quickly. We will be on break from November 27-29, and school will resume on Monday, December 2. We look forward to continuing to work together to make school attendance a priority.

Thank you,

Joliet Township High School

# Monthly Chronic Absenteeism Status Report

Dear Parent,

To encourage and improve our overall attendance, we will be providing you with regular updates regarding your student's attendance.

As we enter November, we want to thank you for your efforts in ensuring your student attends school regularly.

You are receiving this letter to recognize that your student has achieved a 90% or higher attendance rate. We look forward to continuing to work together to make school attendance a priority.

Currently, **Student Name (Student ID Number)** has an absenteeism rate of **Chronic Absenteeism percentage %**.

Thanksgiving break is approaching quickly. We will be on break from November 27-29, and school will resume on Monday, December 2nd. We are thankful for our families, students, and staff who come to school every day, even when it can be challenging. Again, we would like to thank you for partnering with us to maximize your student's opportunity for success this school year.

Thank you,

Joliet Township High School

# Cumulative Targeted Communication

## Notification of Attendance Concerns

Student Name:

### Number of Days Absent:

Term 1		Term 2		Total	
Absent	Tardy	Absent	Tardy	Absent	Tardy
4.61	8	0	0	4.61	8

At Joliet Central High School, our priority is your child. Our goal is to provide every student with the education and skills necessary to be successful in school and life. Critical to this success is consistent attendance. The goal for students should be to miss no more than three school days each semester.

We are sending this letter to you because your child has missed the number of days noted above. Please know that single period absences contribute to the total amount.

We understand there are unavoidable illnesses and other times when your child should remain at home. We also know that poor attendance often leads to academic struggles.

Absences add up quickly and our goal is to make you aware so that together, we can work through any issues that may be preventing your child from constantly attending every class.

Because we are committed to working together with you, please find school contacts below that you can reach out to for assistance to improve your child's attendance and academic performance.

Freshman Academy Coordinator Natali Lopez (815) 727-6735 <a href="mailto:nlopez@jths.org">nlopez@jths.org</a>	Sophomore Academy Coordinator Angel Hauert (815) 727-6823 <a href="mailto:ahauert@jths.org">ahauert@jths.org</a>	Junior Academy Coordinator Maribel Diaz (815) 727-6989 <a href="mailto:madiaz@jths.org">madiaz@jths.org</a>	Senior Academy Coordinator Steve Seper (815) 727-6826 <a href="mailto:sseper@jths.org">sseper@jths.org</a>
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# Roles and Responsibilities

All building administrators have a growth goal for chronic absenteeism as part of their evaluation.

- Goals are disaggregated by subgroups

## A TEAM FOR BETTER ATTENDANCE

Attendance is a shared responsibility for all of us as we come together to tackle this nationwide challenge. Here is how we will address attendance as a team:

### ACADEMY OFFICES

- Sending out letters & emails to families regarding full-day absences at 4, 7, 11, & 18 days.
  - Attendance letter note automatically added to PLP.
  - Answering any questions that parents may have about attendance.



### COUNSELORS

- Working with members of the Triangle Team to consider class/ schedule adjustments or support student's needs.
- Collaborate with others to execute & monitor any attendance plans created.

### DEANS

- Prioritizing partial day absences for students not attending 2 or more class periods in a row, missing 8th or 2nd period, double lunching, or unauthorized throughout the day



### TEACHERS

- Having conversations with students if they notice a pattern of 3 absences to their class & documenting in PLP log. If the pattern continues, the teacher communicates with the parent/ guardian & documents in the PLP Log
  - After 7 absences, teachers can email deans with concerns or complete an RFS if they notice no PLP communication from Academies, Triangle, or deans/ counselors.
    - This will ensure that no students fall through the cracks

*\*Please note: Teachers are encouraged to reach out via email or to stop in & talk to any member of the Triangle Team about any specific absence after the initial notification.*

### AUTOMATIC COMMUNICATION

- Parents/ guardians are receiving robo calls if a student is absent for 2 class periods or more in 1 day (call goes out at 4 PM)
- Parent/ guardians get an email for every tardy a student gets (communication is sent out at 4 PM)





# Trend Data

Chronic Absenteeism	School Year 23/24	1 <sup>st</sup> Semester 24/25
Central	57.3%	46.6%
West	45.2%	38.8%

# Trend Data

Part Day Absences	1 <sup>st</sup> Semester 23/24	1 <sup>st</sup> Semester 24/25	Percentage Change
Central	198,707	140,397	-29.3%
West	107,635	96,949	-9.9%

# Next Steps

1

Continued implementation of JTHS Strategic Plan

2

Ongoing monitoring of attendance data

3

Continued alignment of administrator's growth goals focused on attendance

# Strategies

## How We Will Get There:



1. We will, in partnership with families and community, implement a systemic approach to culturally sustaining experiences and restorative justice to deliver an equitable educational experience while expanding the diversity of our faculty and administration in order to remove systemic educational barriers.
2. We will establish a culture and organizational structure that will foster a positive, safe, inclusive, and supportive climate that engages all stakeholders.
3. We will implement a holistic approach to supporting students through family, community, and student engagement, targeted supports, and flexible learning opportunities to improve student attendance and academic performance.
4. We will maximize the district's resources to update facilities, improve collaborative and functional spaces, and develop creative programming and scheduling to meet the ever-changing needs of our students and community.

