



WEST CHICAGO ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS

Together for Excellence ★ ¡Juntos por la Excelencia!

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Board of Education

TO: West Chicago District 33 Board of Education
FROM: Director of Assessment & Accountability, Beth Walrath
DATE: January 19, 2023
RE: Monthly Chronic Absenteeism Report

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. __Dec. 15, 2022 _____ [
] or attached to this memo

Basic information:

Situation

January 11th is the 74th day of school for the 2022-2023 year. Students missing 7.5 days or more, which is 10% of attendance days, are considered chronically absent.

Please see the graphs for separate numbers for preschool, elementary and middle schools levels.

The number of students who are considered chronically absent continues to increase district wide but at a slower rate than previously.

The overall district average for percentage of students chronically absent is 29.3% at this time. This is an increase of 0.5% from December. The increase from November to December was 3.5%.

Background or historical information:

The Departments for Partnerships and Student Services met with each building attendance team for a mid-year reset. The goal was to ensure a uniform process district wide for addressing attendance issues. Each building team needs to address both the students reaching the 10% absenteeism rate and the students who are nearly chronically absent with 5-9.9% absenteeism rate.

Attendance teams including Assistant Principals, Social Workers, Nurses, Family Liaisons, and Classroom Teacher are meeting regularly in every school building. Schools teams are meeting weekly.

Attendance incentive systems are in place in schools. Principals and Assistant Principals continue contact with families who have struggled with attendance in the past. Attendance teams are monitoring patterns of absences and continue to sort out issues of attendance due to factors other than illness.

Attendance Supports & Strategies for the 2022-2023 School year:

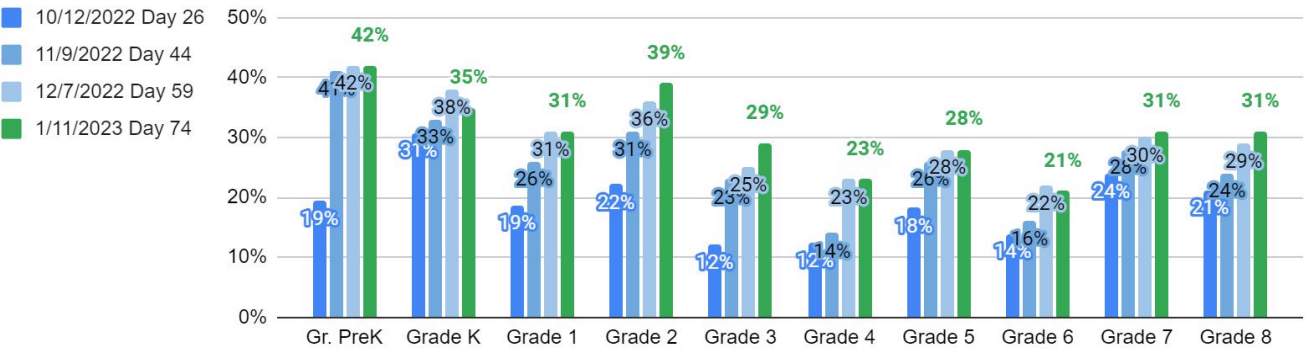
- School wide and by class attendance incentives and rewards for the highest weekly attendance -
- Individual family incentives to support families who in the past have struggled with attendance issues
- Individual attendance letters to each family of chronically absent students including days missed and the percentage of school being missed
- Helping parents problem solve through possible attendance barriers (daycare, transportation, weather, school refusal)
- Support for students experiencing housing insecurity can include transportation to and from school.
- At this time 29 students are provided taxis or have caregivers reimbursed for mileage to and from school due to qualifying for McKinney-Vento support which is an increase from 25 students in December. Additional students who qualify for McKinney-Vento support have been provided bus service on existing routes to their home or initial school in D33.

Previous decisions, actions or parameters that relate to this topic or issue:

Recommendations:

Other questions? What else does the Board wish to know?:

Percentage of Chronically Absent Students by Grade



Percentage of Chronically Absent Students by Level

