



## Board of Education

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**TO:** West Chicago District 33 Board of Education  
**FROM:** Director of Assessment & Accountability, Beth Walrath  
**DATE:** April 18, 2024  
**RE:** Monthly Chronic Absenteeism Report

### This memo is:

- ☒ Information only.  
☐ 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. \_\_\_\_ March 21, 2024 \_\_\_\_  
☐ or attached to this memo

### Basic information:

April 10th, 2024, is the 130th day of school. Districtwide chronic absenteeism is at 21%. Students missing 13 or more days are considered chronically absent at this time. These percentages include both excused and unexcused absences.

The overall district percentage of students chronically absent increased by one percentage point from March. Grades K, 1st, 4th, and 7th remained at the same level as in March. Preschool has seen an increase in absenteeism.

The grade with the lowest chronic absenteeism is 7th grade at 15%.

School attendance teams continue reviewing reasons for absences.  
Please see the graphs below for separate percentages for preschool, elementary, and middle school.

School attendance teams implement school-wide attendance incentives and follow up with students and families experiencing attendance difficulties including chronic absenteeism. Teams continue to connect with families of students who are currently chronically absent. Schools are adding friendly competitions between grade levels for the highest average daily attendance by week or month.

All schools are using attendance letters to inform parents if their child is at 5-9% of days absent or has reached the 10% chronically absent level.

Preschool sends "Missed You Today" messages to parents when students are absent.

Elementary attendance teams provide incentives for attendance both school-wide and for individual students.

Leman Middle School also has an incentive system and parents are contacted by Deans and assistant principals.

Qualifying students are provided taxi services under the McKinney-Vento Act to support students and families experiencing housing insecurity. Currently, in April, 45 students are provided transportation

to and from school so they can maintain their connection to consistent schooling, peers, and their community. This is an increase over March and continues to be the highest level of need encountered.

**Background or historical information:**

Chronic absenteeism is a measure of school climate and culture. A positive school climate increases attendance and academic achievement. If attendance overall is low or chronic absenteeism is high then these are signals to examine the school environment and how students perceive the school.

The Illinois State Board of Education reports on the [illinoisreportcard.com](http://illinoisreportcard.com) site that the percentage of students chronically absent in District 33 for the 2022-2023 school year was 24%. The state average for the 2022-2023 school year was 28%.

The June 2023 district data is included as a reference point for looking at the current information

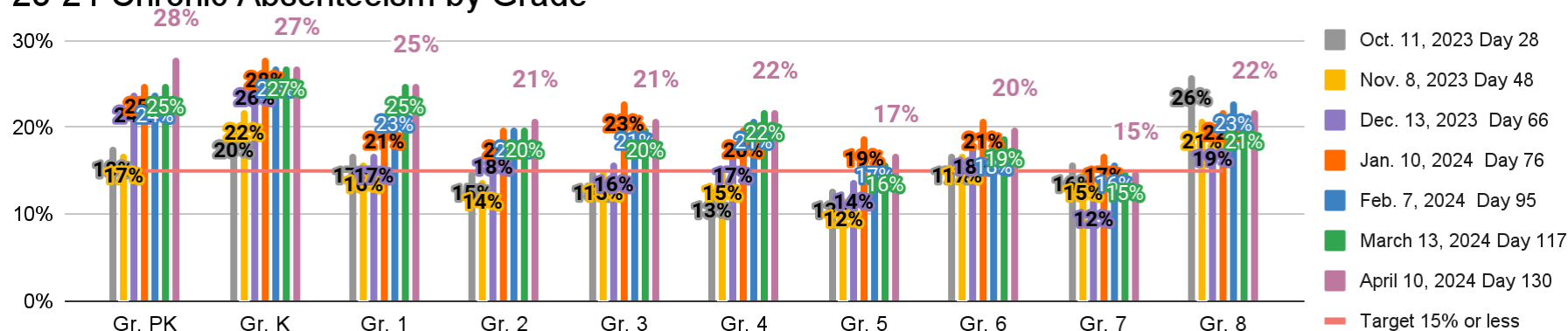
**Previous decisions, actions, or parameters that relate to this topic or issue:**

**Recommendations:**

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

Please see the graphs on the following page.

## 23-24 Chronic Absenteeism by Grade



## 23-24 Chronic Absenteeism by Level

