To view this meeting, the livestream link is: https://vimeo.com/event/729428

To make a public comment, the call in number is

(US) 1 573-559-1310 PIN: 312 199 871#

Regular BOE Agenda
April 7, 2026

Council Chambers
3 Primrose St.
Newtown, CT 06470
7:00 PM

As stewards of Newtown Public Schools, we commit to conducting ourselves with honesty, integrity, and respect. Guided by Newtown's Core Values and the Portrait of a Graduate, we will strive to prepare every student to think critically and innovate with curiosity; adapt, persevere, and pursue goals with strategic focus; act with compassion, collaborate across differences, and communicate with clarity. We hold ourselves to the same attributes we seek to instill in our students, embodying them in our work together.

AGENDA

1. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
2. CELEBRATION OF EXCELLENCE
   A. Sandy Hook School Scripps Spelling Bee Winners
   B. Hawley Cultural Night
3. CONSENT AGENDA
4. **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION
5. REPORTS
   A. Chair Report
   B. Superintendent's Report
   C. Committee and Liaison Reports
   D. Student Representative Report
6. OLD BUSINESS
   A. Bylaws for Second Read and Approval
      9500 - Formulation, Adoption, Amendment or Deletion of Bylaws
      9501 - Formulation, Adoption, Amendment or Deletion of Policies
      9502 - Formulation, Adoption, Amendment or Deletion of Regulations
      9510 - Suspension of Policies, Bylaws, Regulations
      9600 - Office Duties - Chairperson
      9610 - Official Duties - Vice Chairperson
      9620- Official Duties - Secretary
   B. Bylaws to Rescind after Adoption of Items in Section 6A
      9311 — Formation, Adoption, Amendment of Policies
      9100 - Officers Organizational Meeting of the Board
7. NEW BUSINESS

A. Update on Dean of Students Position at Newtown High School
   Presenter: Leanne Browett, Dean of Students

8. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

9. ADJOURNMENT

***During the first Public Participation, the Board welcomes commentary regarding items on the agenda. After being recognized, please state your name and address for the record. Per Board Policy 9325, we request that speakers be respectful and limit comments to not more than three minutes, and we note that public complaints about employees are not permitted during meetings. All such concerns should instead be submitted to the Superintendent. During the second Public Participation, commentary may address the agenda or may introduce issues for the Board to consider in the future. The Board does not engage in dialogue during either public comment period. If you desire more information or answers to specific questions, please email the Board: NewtownBOE@newtown.k12.ct.us*

HAWLEY SCHOOL'S

Inaugural Culture Night

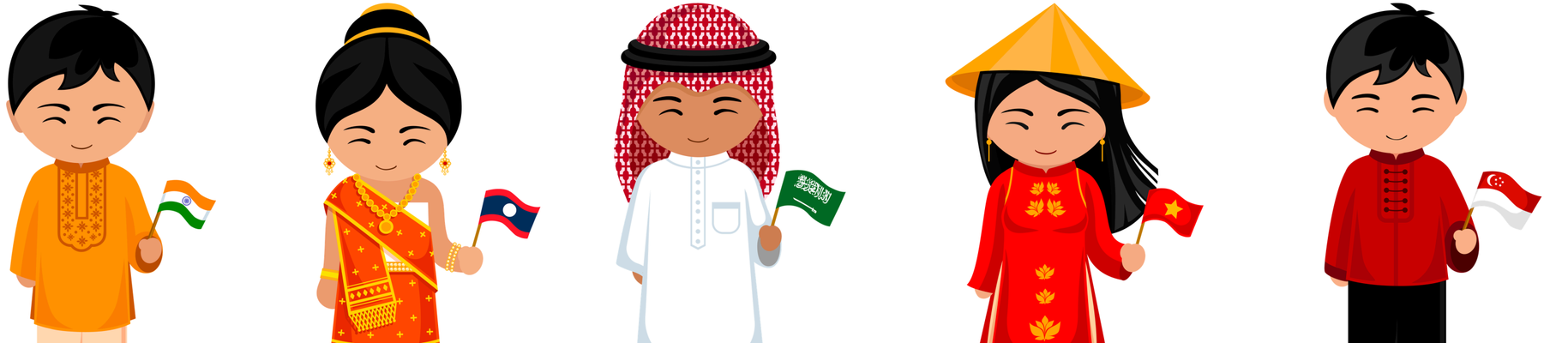


A Celebration of Diversity, Equity, Access, and Inclusion

THE VISION & COLLABORATION

- A joint effort between the Hawley Safe School Climate DEAI Sub-committee and the Hawley PTA.
  - Goal: To foster inclusion and celebrate the unique backgrounds of our Hawley families.





A JOURNEY AROUND THE WORLD



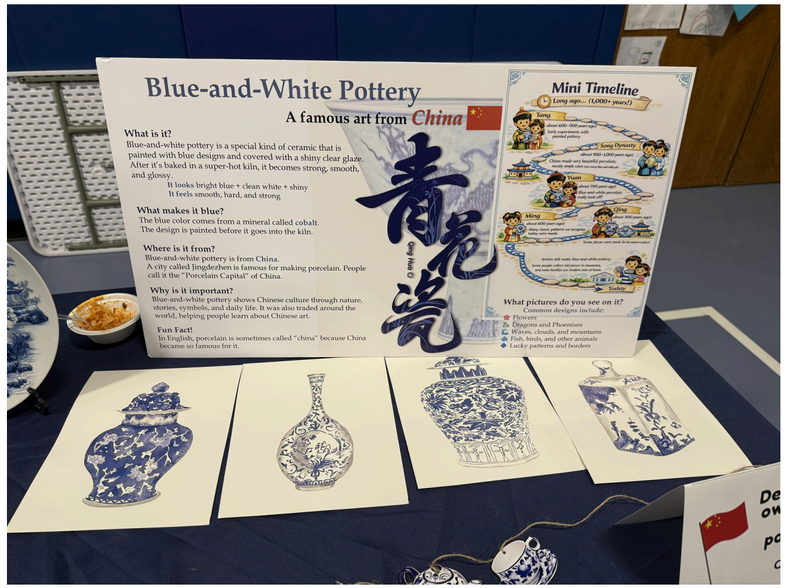






- Families hosted booths in the gym representing their heritage.
- Professional nameplates (provided by the PTA) identified each country.

A JOURNEY AROUND THE WORLD







A JOURNEY AROUND THE WORLD





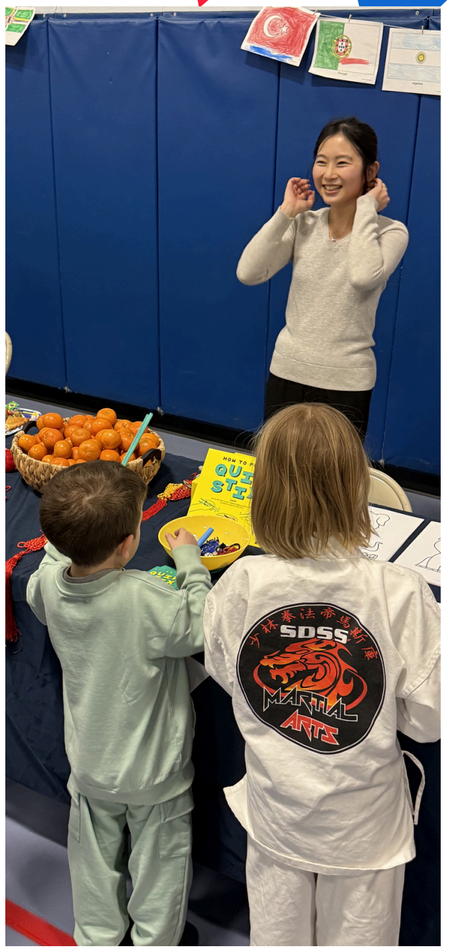




INTERACTIVE EXPERIENCES

- Hands-on activities at every stop.
- Examples: Food tastings, traditional crafts, dance demonstrations, and sports.





INTERACTIVE EXPERIENCES







THE PASSPORT PROGRAM

- EVERY VISITOR RECEIVED A CULTURE NIGHT PASSPORT AT CHECK-IN.
- VISITORS RECEIVED A UNIQUE STAMP TO MARK EACH “COUNTRY/CULTURE BOOTH VISIT.”







THE PASSPORT PROGRAM

- Every visitor received a Culture Night Passport at check-in.
- visitors received a unique stamp to mark each “country/culture booth visit.”





MAPPING OUR ROOTS





- 100+ Visitors.
- 18 Countries Represented.
- Stronger, more connected Hawley community.

KEY TAKEAWAYS & SUCCESSES









- Increased awareness of the diverse cultures represented at Hawley School.
- Strengthened the partnership between parents, school staff, and the community.
- Created a new, beloved Hawley tradition.

THANK YOU & LOOKING AHEAD

Thank you to our Volunteers and Families!





















Board of Education
Newtown, Connecticut

Please Note: These minutes are pending Board approval.

Minutes of the Board of Education Meeting held on March 17, 2026
Council Chambers, 3 Primrose Street, Newtown, CT.

Members Present: A. Plante, D. Linnetz, S. Tomai, (Remote)M. Beylouni, J.Vouros
Members Absent: C.Gilson, D.Ramsey
Admin: A. Uberti, Superintendent; F. Purcaro, Assistant Superintendent; T. Gouveia, Director of Business
Other: 1 staff, 1 Press, 1Public

Mrs. Plante called the meeting to order at 7:31 p.m.

Item 1: Pledge of Allegiance
Item 2: Celebration of Excellence
The SHS recipients were not able to attend this evening. The Board will recognize the Sandy Hook School Scripps Spelling Bee Winners at a future date.

Item 3: Consent Agenda
MOTION: Mrs. Linnetz moved that the Board of Education approve the Consent Agenda, which includes the Minutes from March 3, 2026. Seconded by Ms. Beylouni. Motion passes unanimously.

Item 4: Public Participation None
Item 5: Reports
Chair Report:
Mrs. Plante offered a brief budget update. The Board of Finance made a $125,000 reduction to the BOE Budget last week. The Board of Finance felt the budget was very well defended and has now passed it along to the Legislative Council.

Superintendent's Report:
Mrs. Uberti discussed her budget presentation that was sponsored by the PTA at Reed Intermediate School on March 16th. It was well attended in person and on line and Mrs.Uberti acknowledged and appreciated the public engagement in the process. She also expressed thanks to Assistant Superintendent Frank Purcaro and Matt Mervis from EdAdvance for the presentation on AI and the challenges and opportunities it presents to us as a district.

Mrs.Uberti asked Board Members to think about the Special Meeting on a special topic and whether or not that's a format they'd like to use in the future to discuss topics board members are interested in covering.
Mrs.Uberti addressed the change in the state law regarding the Kindergarten start age. Right now, the waiver is optional. The big change will be in 2027 and 2028 where the waiver will be

going away and by law, students will have to be five by September first to start school and there will be no exceptions.

Mrs.Uberti then encouraged the public to support Newtown High School and go see Mama Mia this weekend and lastly, she acknowledged that it is Board of Education Appreciation month and she thanked our Board of Education for all of their hard work and dedication.

Committee and Liaison Reports:
Ms.Tomai gave a quick update on the 3/16 CFF Meeting. Right now we have expended 99.6% of our budget. Projected year end balance of 300K.

Student Report:
Our student representatives shared some NHS highlights. The College Career Fair on March 16th at NHS was a huge success. The College and Career Center is in full swing with supporting students in search of scholarships and internships. As of now, 78 seniors have committed to college with the expectation of many regular decisions releasing this week. The Mental Health Fair on March 13th was well attended and supported by staff and students. The NHS Cap Club, first student-based scholarship foundation at NHS, has upped their $1000 scholarship to two $2500 scholarships. This club has been spearheaded by Claire DiNoto. The Class Council has been working on a bulletin board calendar to provide seniors with reminders during this busy time of year, including payment of transcripts, cap and gown dues and senior events. The National Honors Society is running a peanut butter, sports equipment and children's clothing drive. All donated items will be personally delivered by Miss Violet to a community in the Dominican Republic.

Financial Report and Transfers for Month Ending February 28, 2026:
MOTION: Mrs. Linnetz moved that the Board of Education approve the financial report and transfers for the month ending February 28, 2026. Ms.Beylouni seconded.

Tanja Gouveia, Director of Business, reiterated a year end projected balance of just over $300,000. The transfers that came in were from Newtown Middle School. Three thousand dollars from Student Travel to cover equipment repairs and instructional supplies in music and then $9500 is being requested from equipment repairs at NHS in athletics to cover instructional supplies.

Mrs. Plante asked for a vote. Motion passes unanimously.

Old Business:

MOTION: Mrs.Linnetz moved that the Board of Education approve the 7th and 8th Grade Science Curriculum. Seconded by Ms. Beylouni. Motion passes unanimously.

MOTION: Mrs.Linnetz moved that the Board of Education set the Newtown Middle School Moving Up Ceremony to June 15, 2026 and the Newtown High School Graduation for June 16, 2026 with a rain date of June 17, 2026. Seconded by Mrs. Beylouni.

Mrs.Beylouni confirmed that the last day of school is June 18th. The updated calendar is being maintained on the District Website so families can check the website calendar any time for up to date information. Mrs. Plante asks for a vote. Motion passes unanimously.

MOTION: Mrs. Linnetz moved that the Board of Education authorize the Superintendent to modify the middle school schedule for 2025-2026, 2026-2027, and 2027-2028 school years to provide for an early dismissal on the day of the Grade 8 Moving Up Ceremony, in alignment with the already modified schedule for Newtown High School on that same day. Seconded by Mrs.Beylouni.

Superintendent Uberti outlined the burden on families with respect to time frame and scheduling This schedule modification addresses these challenges. Motion passes unanimously.

MOTION: Mrs. Linnetz moved that the Board of Education approve the ratified contract between the Newtown BOE Security Officers, Unit 147, United Public Service Employees Union, and the Newtown Board of Education, covering the period from July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2029 and move further that the Board authorize the Board Chair to execute the contract on its behalf. Seconded by Mrs.Beylouni. Motion passes unanimously.

Item 7: New Business
Mrs.Linnetz discussed the 9000 series Bylaws being presented for first-read. Questions can be directed to Mrs. Linnetz or Mr.Ramsey. Mrs.Plante added that the Board should have strong knowledge of these policies and be sure they represent how the Board operates accurately.

Item 8: Public Participation

Item 9: Adjournment
MOTION: Mr.Vouros moved that the meeting be adjourned. Seconded by Mrs.Beylouni. Motion passes unanimously. The meeting is adjourned at 8:00pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

_____

Mandi Poseno
Clerk

Board of Education
Newtown, Connecticut

Please Note: These minutes are pending Board approval.

Minutes of the *Special Board of Education Meeting* held on March 17, 2026 at 5:30pm. Council Chambers, 3 Primrose Street, Newtown, CT

Members Present: A.Plante, M. Beylouni, D.Linnetz, J.Vouros
Members Absent: D. Ramsey, C.Gilson, S.Tomai

Staff Present: A. Uberti, Superintendent, F. Purcaro, Asst.Superintendent

Others Present: Matt Mervis, Director of Skills21 and AI Strategy at EdAdvance, 1 Press

Item 1: Call to Order at 5:36 p.m.
Item 2: Presentation on the Integration of AI in CT Public Schools by Matt Mervis
Link to presentation: https://play.champds.com/newtownct/event/80

Motion: Mr.Vouros moved to adjourn. Seconded by Mrs.Beylouni. Passes unanimously.

Item 7: Adjournment
The meeting adjourned at 6:46 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

Mandi Poseno, Clerk

Newtown Public School District

Newtown Board of Education

Correspondence Report
03/03/2026 – 04/06/2026

Date	Sender Name	Subject
03/03/2026	Alison Plante	Fwd: Orientation Slides
03/03/2026	David Roach	Thank You
03/03/2026	Alison Plante	Virtual BOE Meeting Tonight (March 3)
03/03/2026	Kevin Anzellotti	Retirement 6/19/2026
03/05/2026	LaBarge, Wendy	NHS Drama Invites the Newtown BOE to our Spring Production of Mamma Mia
03/05/2026	Pullman and Comley LLC' via	Title IX on the Nines: Title IX Coordinators as Gatekeepers – Key considerations for Institutions and Administrators – March 9, 2026
03/06/2026	Morris, Joanne	Business Office CLA Presentation
03/06/2026	Anne Uberti	Friday Notes 3.9.2026
03/08/2026	Alison Plante	Weekly Update – March 9th
03/09/2026	Anne Uberti	NPS Weekly Update 3.9.2026
03/09/2026	Noone,Kymberly	Congratulations on the Artists on the Rise Art Show NHS Winners
03/10/2026	Alison Plante	BOF Budget Update
03/10/2026	Mandi Poseno	Invitation: Special Meeting - Matt Mervis Presentation @ Tue Mar 17, 2026 at 5:30PM – 7:00PM (EDT)
03/11/2026	Mandi Poseno	Invitation: BOE Meeting @ Tuesday March 17, 2026 at 7:30PM – 9:30PM (EDT)
03/13/2026	BoardBook	Meeting Notification: March 17, 20226 at 7:30PM – Regular BOE Agenda
03/13/2026	BoardBook	Meeting Notification: March 17th, 2026 at 5:30PM – Special BOE Agenda
03/13/2026	Anne Uberti	Friday Notes 3.13.2026
03/14/2026	Melissa Carle' via Newtown	School Bus Testing
03/15/2026	Alison Plante	Weekly Update – March 15
03/15/2026	Mandi Poseno	Documents for 3/17/2026
03/16/2026	Kymberly Noone	YOUR'E INVITED! Newtown District Art Show Reception
03/16/2026	Mandi Poseno	Budget Report by Object 2/28/2026
03/16/2026	Anne Uberti	NPS Weekly Update 3.16.2026
03/23/2026	Anne Uberti	NPS Weekly Update 3.23.2026
03/24/2026	Jim Ross	NMS Culture Fair
03/27/2026	Mandi Poseno	Profiles in Professionalism
03/27/2026	Anne Uberti	Friday Notes 3.27.2026

03/29/2026	Alison Plante	Weekly Update – March 29, 2026
03/30/2026	Kymberly Noone	Re: YOUR'RE INVITED! Newtown District Art Show Reception
03/30/2026	Anne Uberti	NPS Weekly Update 3.30.2026
03/31/2026	Mandi Poseno	Invitation: BOE @ Tuesday April 7, 2026 at 7:00PM – 9:00PM (EDT)
04/01/2026	Alison Plante	Budget Update
04/01/2026	BoardBook	Meeting Notification: April 7, 2026 at 7:00PM - Regular BOE Agenda
04/02/2026	BoardBook	Meeting Notification: April 7, 2026 at 5:30PM – Policy Sub-Committee Agenda
04/02/2026	Kymberly Noone	A Thank You For Your Support in the Arts
04/06/2026	Sullen Goss' via Newtown	School Start Times
04/06/2026	Gabriel, Jamie	NMS Drama Presents "Something Rotten, Jr"
04/06/2026	Noone, Kymbery	Congratulations to Our CAS 2026 Outstanding Arts Awardees
04/06/2026	Anne Uberti	NPS Weekly Update 4.6.2026

The Correspondence Report reflects a periodic summary of correspondence received by the Newtown Board of Education. In accordance with applicable privacy laws and Board policies, certain communications may be excluded from the Report from time to time.

Data Informed Student Supports

NHS Dean of Students

Board of Education| April 7, 2026

NotebookLM

The Dean's Role is Centered on a Primary Mission

Improving Student Attendance and Reducing Chronic Absenteeism

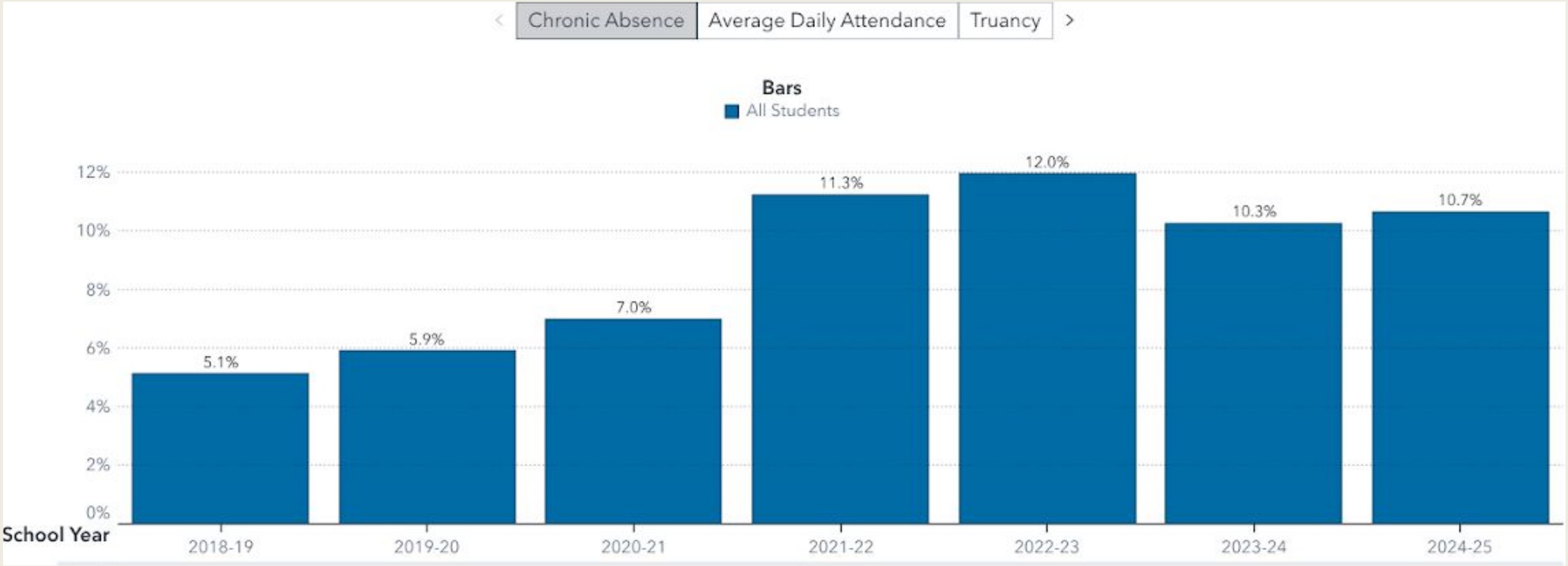
NHS Strategic Goals Connection

Implement strategies to reduce the number of students considered chronically absent.

2025-26 Strategic Actions

- Analyze 2024-25 data
- Identify students
- Run absentee reports
- SmartPass implementation

NHS Chonic Absence Data



Three Pillar Approach to Reducing Chronic Absenteeism



Student Engagement

Proactive support and targeted interventions for students.



Family Partnership

Consistent communication & collaborative problem-solving with families.

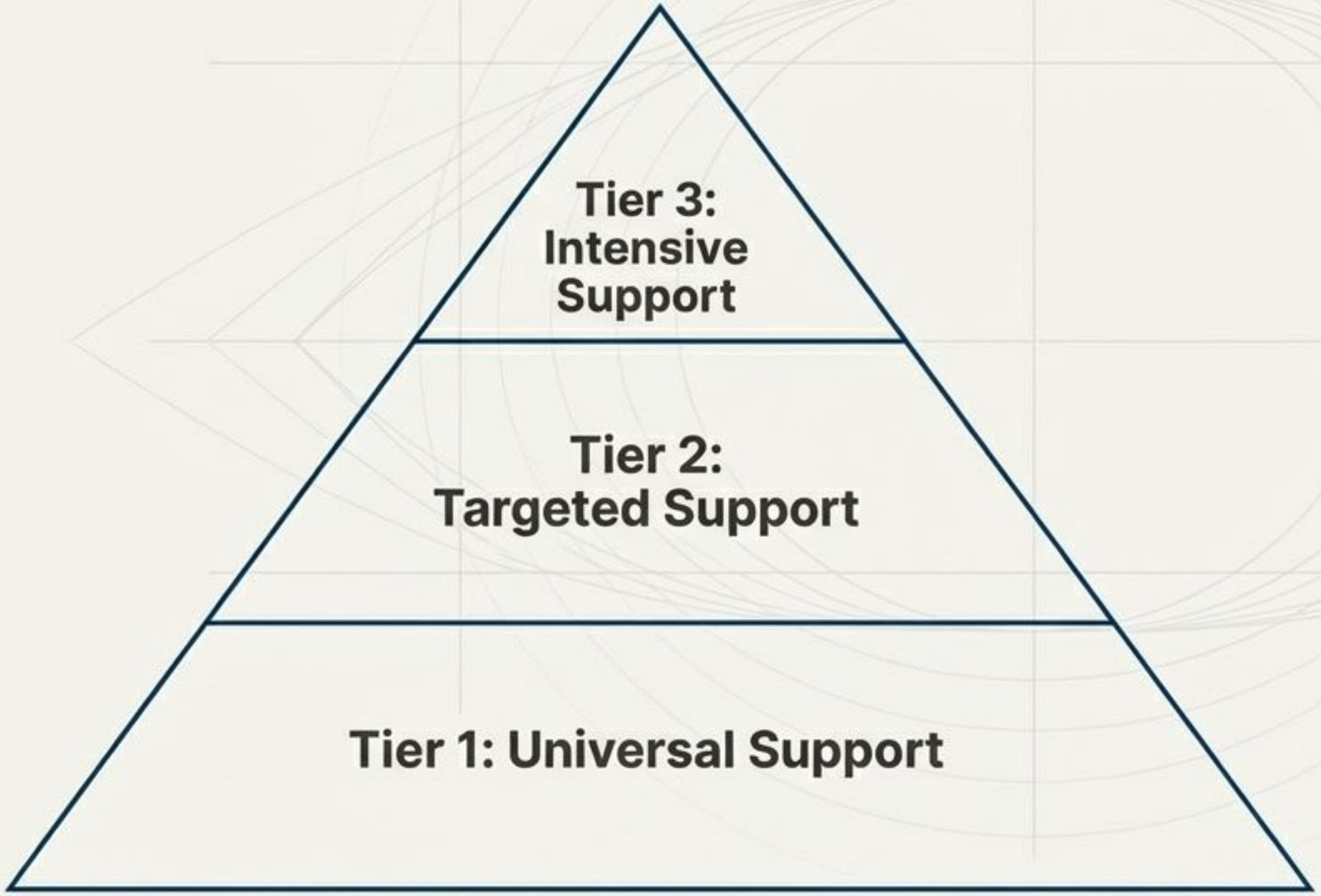


Data Analysis & Policy Focus

Daily, weekly, and monthly data analysis to inform supports and practices.

NotebookLM

A Three-Tiered Approach to Support to Reducing Chronic Absenteeism



Applied a **multi-tiered system of support (MTSS)** to systematically address attendance. This framework ensures **every student receives foundational support,** while providing **progressively intensive interventions for those with greater needs.**

This model is applied across two key focus areas: **Students and Families**.

NotebookLM

Pillar 1: A Tiered Strategy for Student Engagement





Tier 1: Universal Engagement

- Monthly-themed 'NHS Attendance Matters' student newsletters.
- Embedded student support videos on topics like getting to school on time, time management, and study skills.



Tier 2: Targeted Intervention

- Daily and weekly PowerSchool attendance data analysis to identify at-risk students.
- Direct meetings with identified students to determine and address root causes (barriers, aversions, disengagement, misconceptions).
- Collaborative student/family/staff 'care and concern' meetings.



Tier 3: Intensive Support

- Increased frequency of meetings with students.
- Referral to the NHS Attendance Review Board.
- Home visits.
- In-depth EduClimber attendance data analysis.

NotebookLM

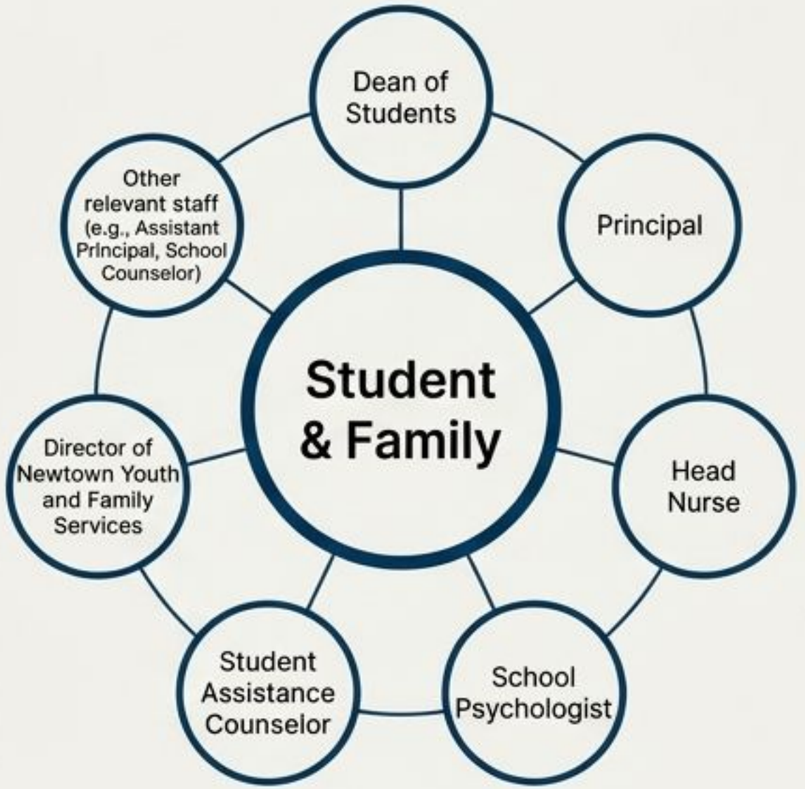
Tier 3: The NHS Attendance Review Board

Core Objective

To assess attendance patterns of selected students and provide support to reduce chronic absenteeism. Specifically, we aim to:

- Identify relevant barriers, aversions, or misconceptions regarding attendance.
- Determine any underlying issues of school disengagement.
- Identify and provide appropriate, targeted support for each student.

Board Membership (A Multi-Disciplinary Team)



NotebookLM

Pillar 2: A Tiered Strategy for Family Partnership



Tier 1: Universal Communication

- Monthly-themed “NHS Attendance Matters” parent/guardian newsletters with the same embedded student support videos.

Tier 2: Proactive Notification & Collaboration

- Daily PowerSchool data analysis to communicate with parents/guardians about absence concerns.
- Weekly Logical Attendance Tracker analysis to automatically notify families via email, text, and PowerSchool letter when students reach 6, 9, 12, and 15 day absence marks.

All communications translated into Spanish, Portuguese-Brazil, Albanian, and Ukrainian for ELL families.

- Student/family/staff “care and concern” meetings.

Tier 3: Intensive Partnership

- More frequent, direct communication with families.
- Participation in NHS Attendance Review Board meetings.
- Home visits.

NotebookLM

Common Family & Student Attendance Misconceptions…



Why we count every day (The 10% Rule).

- **The Research:** Students who miss just 10% of the school year suffer significant academic harm.
- **The Hard Truth:** This applies regardless of whether absences are “excused” or “unexcused.”
- **The Law:** ***Sec. 10-198c (2015)*** defines a "Chronically absent child" as one whose **total absences >= 10%** of their enrollment days.

NotebookLM

How the State defines “Present.”



The 50% Threshold

(State Board of Education 2022)

A student is “In Attendance” if they are present for at least half of the instructional school day.

- ✔ Present at assigned school.
- ✔ Participating in a school-sponsored activity (e.g., field trip).
- ✔ Participating in authorized remote learning.

Note: Students serving out-of-school suspension are reported as “absent.”

NotebookLM

The Tipping Point for Excused Absences: Absence #10

State Board of Education Guidance (2012)

Level 1: Days 1–9



Parent Discretion

Requirement: Parent or guardian approval/note.

Level 2: Days 10+



Medical, Legal, Religious, Family Emergency, or Extraordinary Educational Opportunity Requirement.

Requirement: Doctor's note, court document, or specific exemption only.

Parent notes no longer suffice for illness.

The 10-Day Rule: All documentation must be provided within 10 school days of the absence.

NotebookLM

Why We May Not Notice Chronic Absence



Absences Add up

Chronic Absence = 18 days of absence = 2 days a month

Pillar 3: Data Analysis & Policy Focus

Data Analysis

Individual Student Data

- Powerschool: Daily, weekly, and year-to-date data
- EduClimber:In-depth student analysis data

Schoolwide Data Trends

- EdSight: Monthly and ongoing comparative data analysis

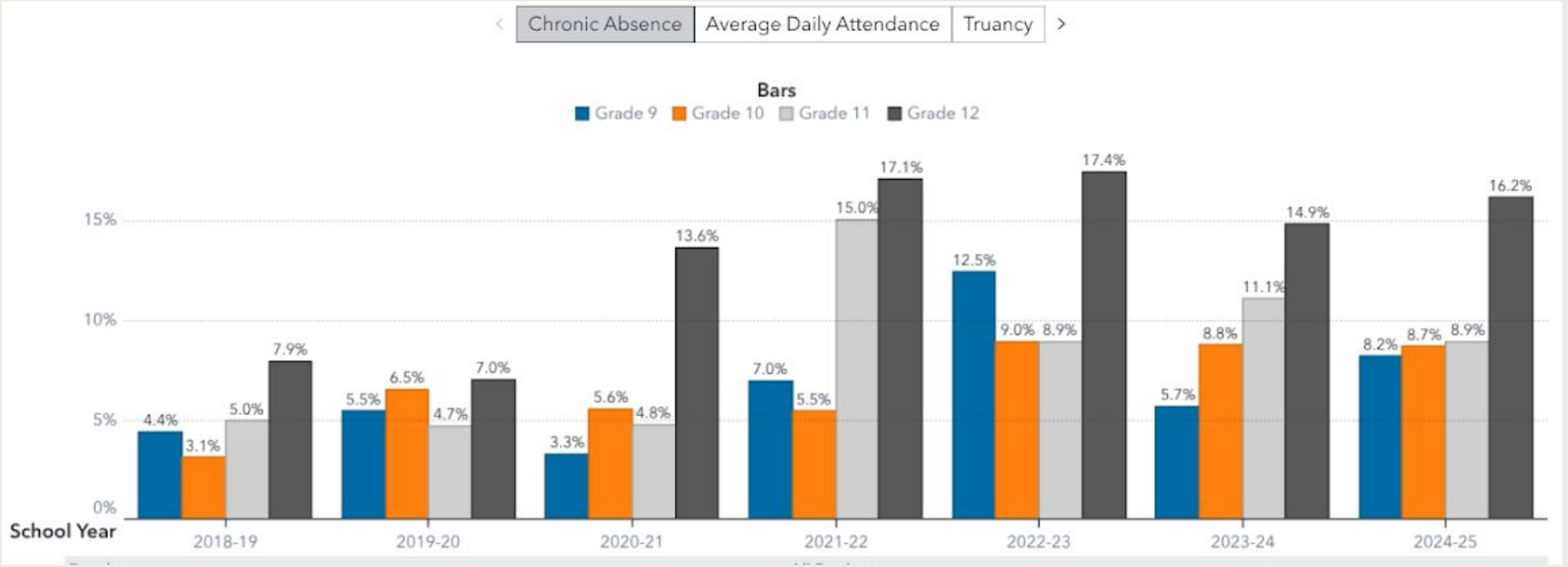
Policy Focus

Policy revisions

Analyze school policies to determine their impact on chronic absenteeism and align them with State attendance laws.

- Loss of credit numbers
- Senior minimum course requirements
- In-school suspension coding
- Nurse visit coding

NHS Chonic Absence Data By Grade



Seniors

Align Loss of Credit Numbers with Chronic Absenteeism Numbers		
	Current Policy	Policy beginning in 2026-27
Full Year	21	18
Semester	11	9

- **Seniors will take a minimum of 6 classes starting in the 2026-27 school year.**

You Showed Up Senior Showdown!

Seniors, want to win a $250 Amazon gift card?

Here's how you can stay eligible:

✓ *The 90% Rule*: Keep your cumulative attendance rate above 90%.

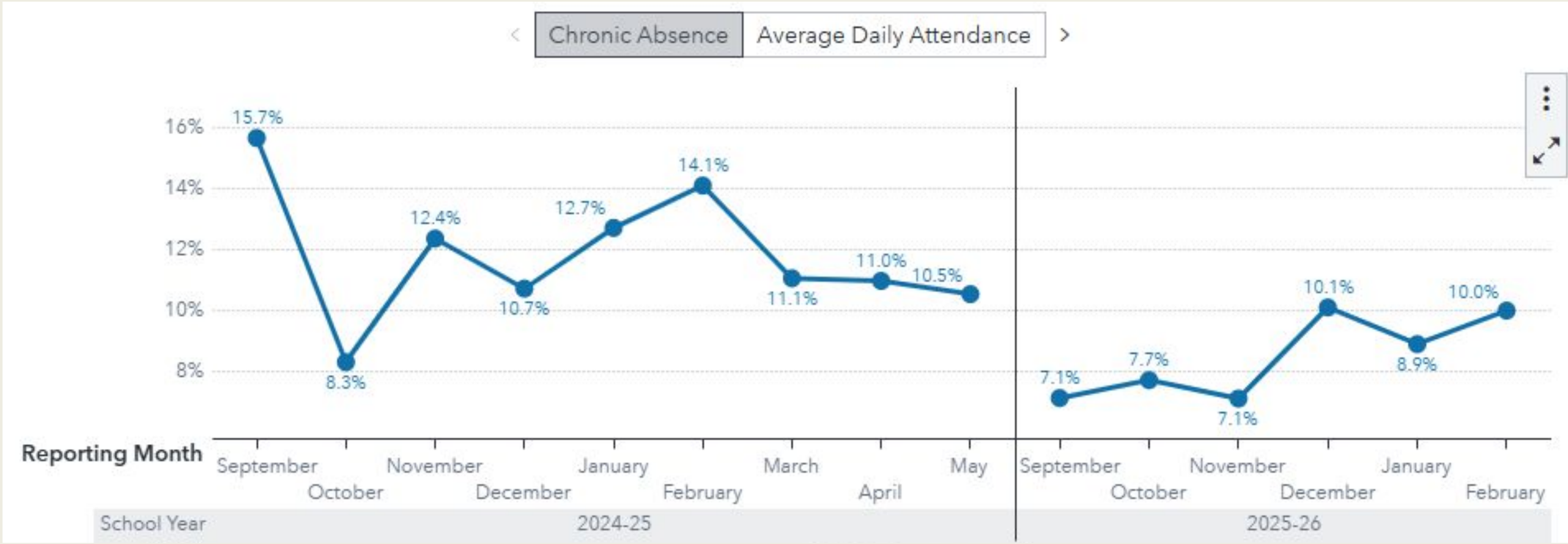
✓ **The Absence Cap: Limit your total absences to 17 or fewer by the last day of school.**

(*Note*: **Missing more than half of the school day counts as an absence.**)

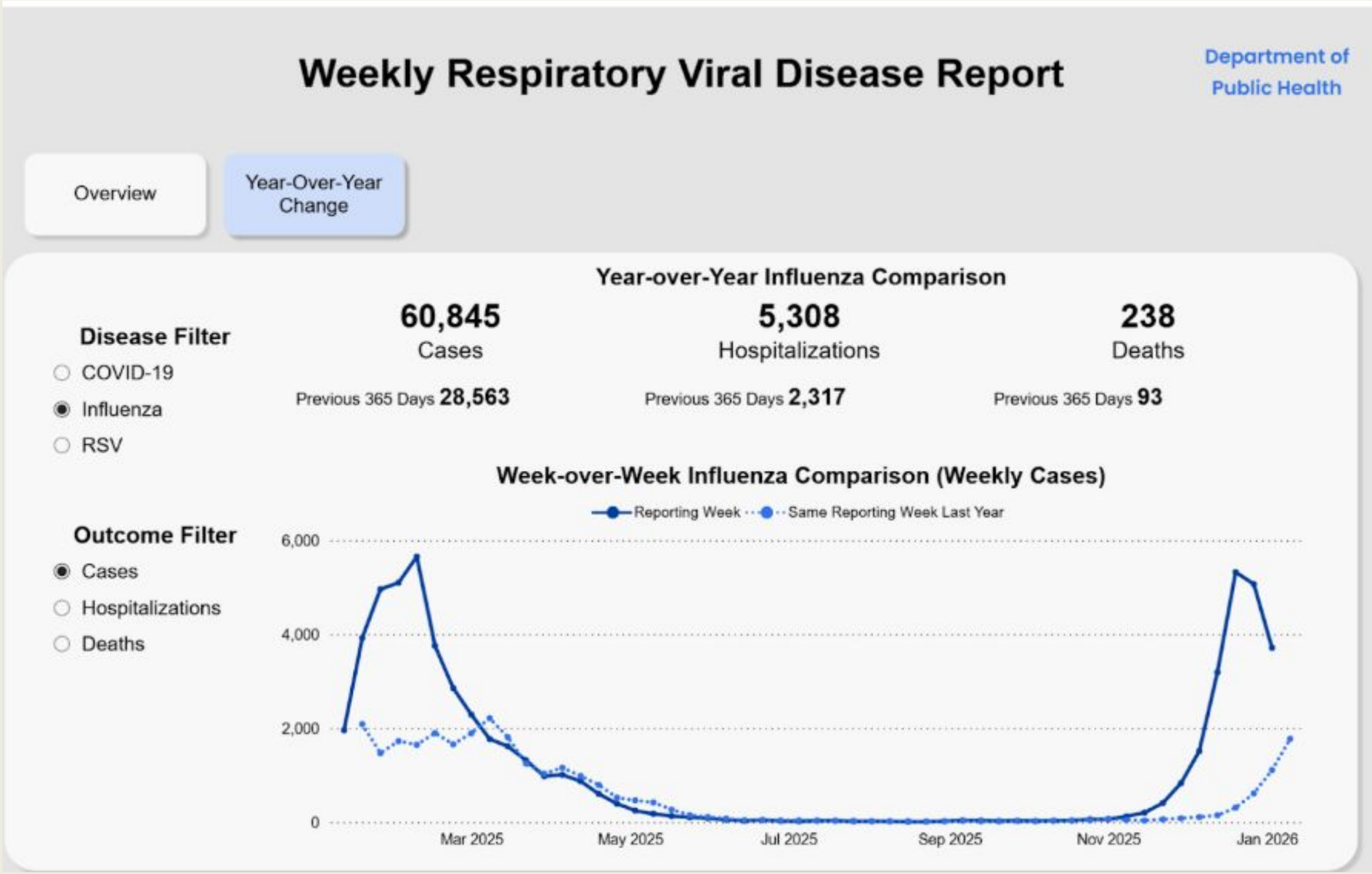
The Drawing: The raffle will take place during the final week of school.

🏆 **Two lucky seniors will each win a $250 Amazon gift card!**🏆

Is Chronic Absenteeism at NHS Improving?

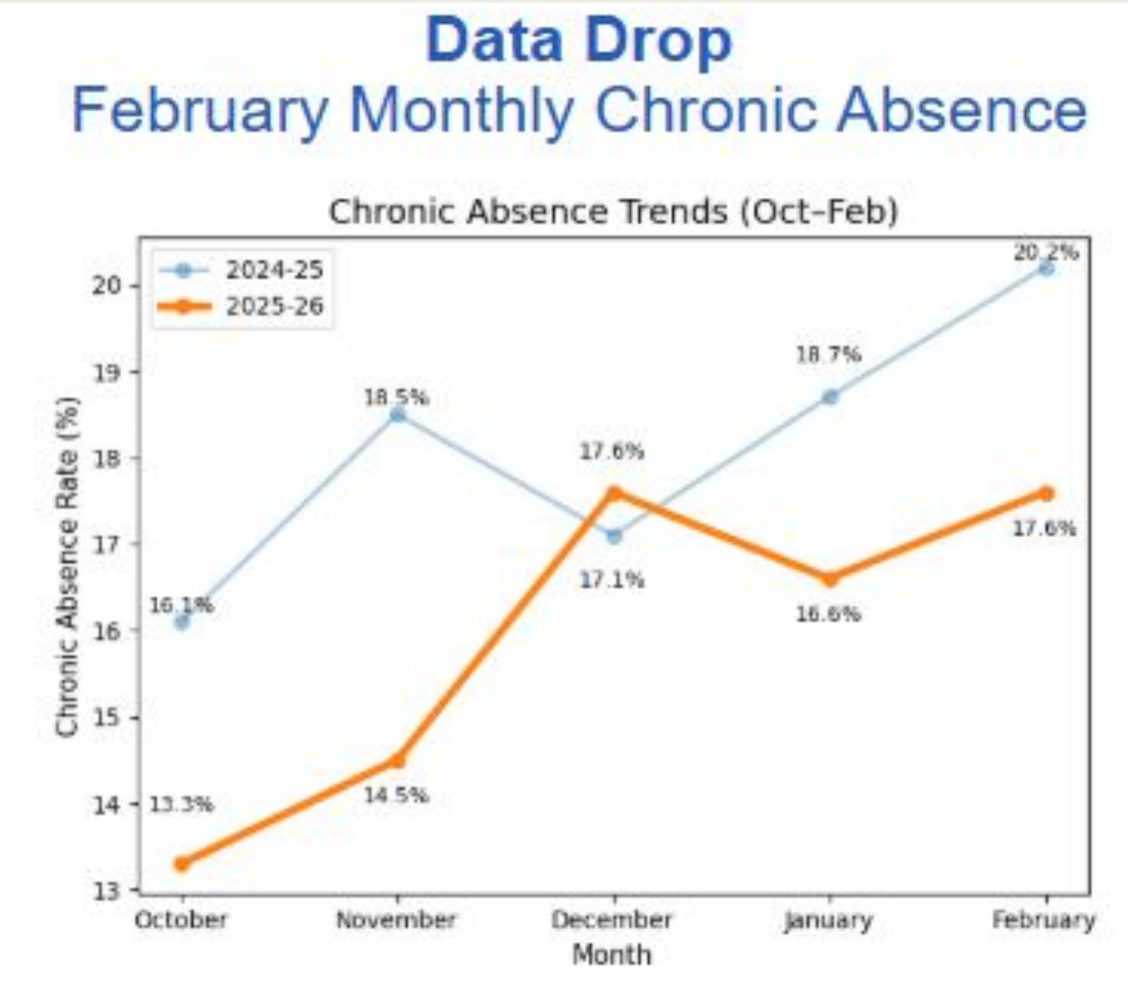


Why Did Chronic Absenteeism in the Winter? Flu B

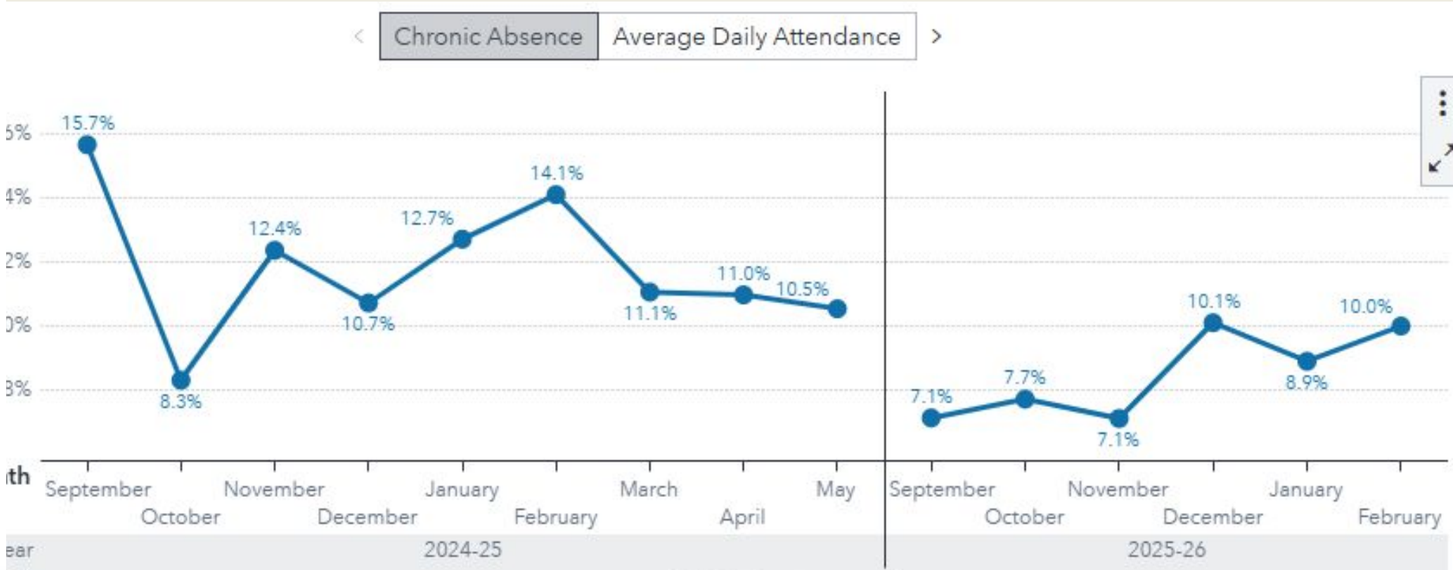


Winter Comparisons

State of Connecticut



NHS Chronic Absence Data



Additional Focus Areas of NHS Dean of Students

- ***Administration***
  - Monitor students throughout the day and at extracurricular events
  - Student discipline
  - NEASC steering committee & standard chair
  - MTSS committee, ERT team, BLT team
  - Learning Walks, POG rollout, etc.

- ***Student Support***
  - Restorative practices, conversations, & circles
  - Help students troubleshoot issues and challenges

- ***Teacher Support***
  - Help teachers troubleshoot issues and challenges

Critical Components of the Work?

- **Building Relationships with Students, Families, & School Staff**
- **Increasing Student Engagement & School Connections**