

Every Day Matters: Improving Attendance for Students Experiencing Homelessness

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Mozie**

ESSA 2026



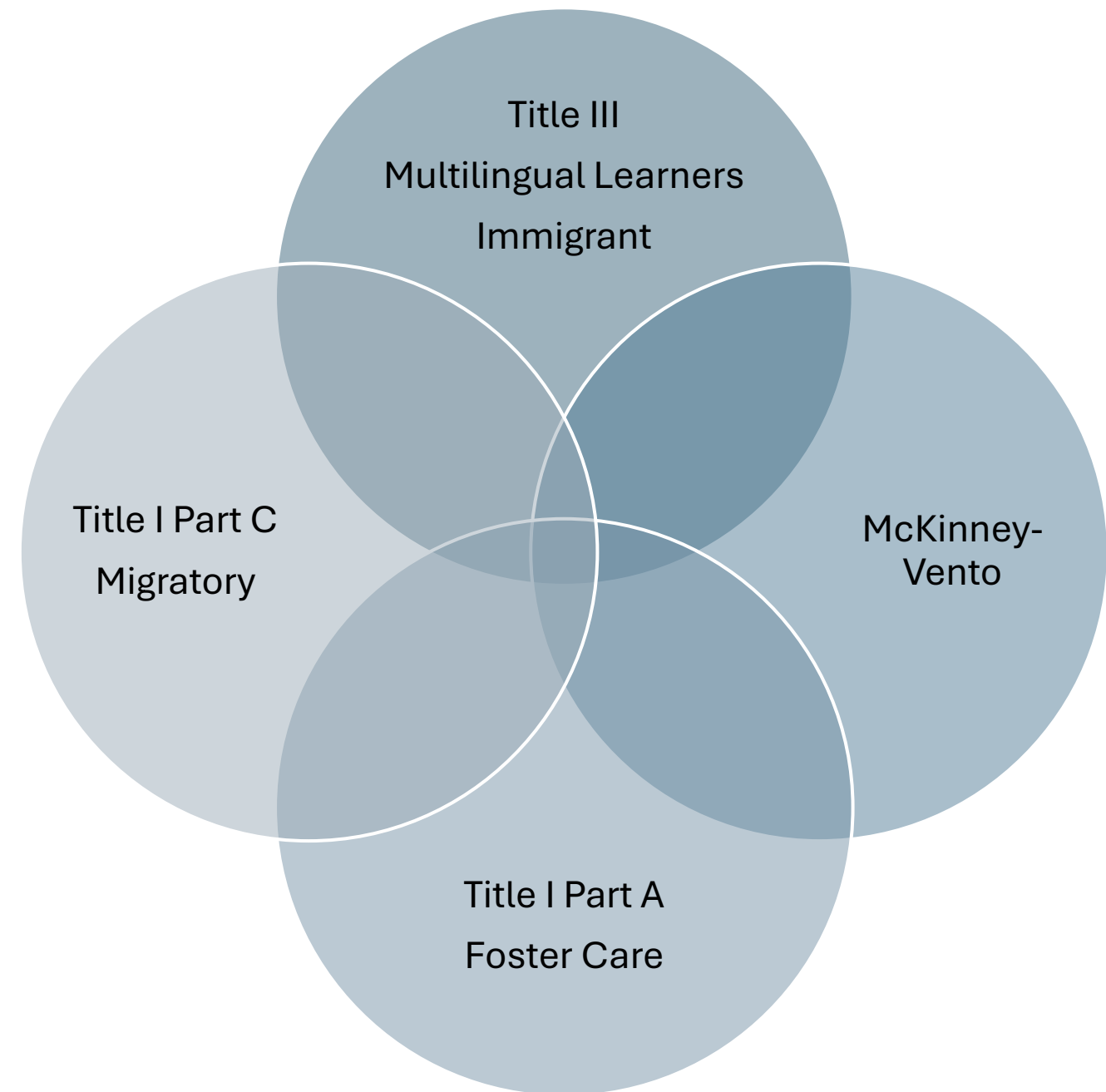
**SOUTH CAROLINA
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION**

Office of Federal and State Accountability

Student Advocacy, Access & Support Team (SAAS)

Mission:

To ensure equitable identification and access to educational opportunities and wrap-around supports to students who are multilingual learners, immigrants, migratory, in foster care, and/or experiencing homelessness.



Agenda

1 EveryDay Labs

- State Level Project and Data
- Goals

2 SchoolHouse Connection

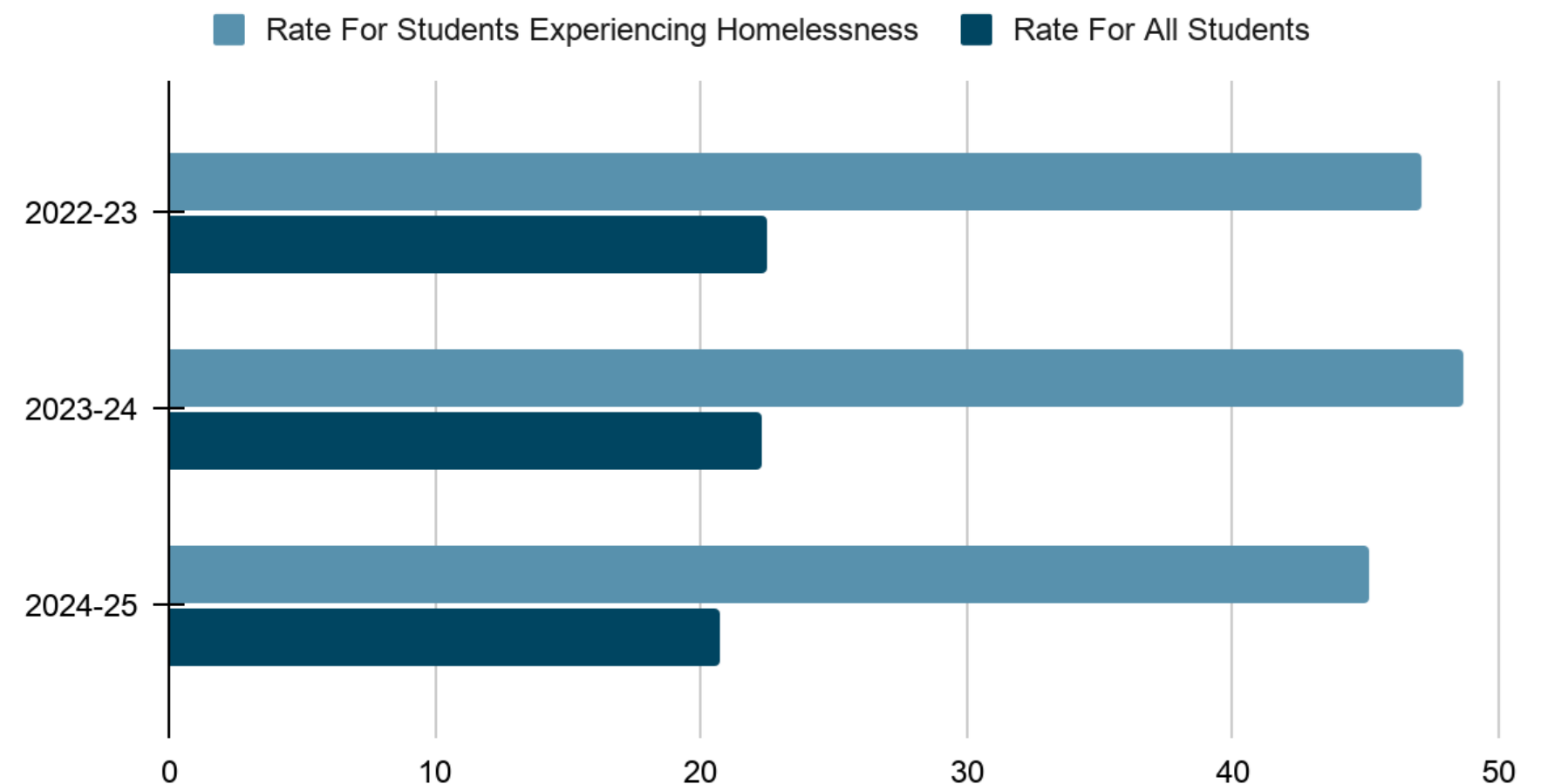
- Local LEA Initiative
- Wins!



Mckinney-Vento Chronic Absenteeism

- Chronic Absenteeism is highest among our students experiencing homelessness.
- The McKinney-Vento Act seeks to level access to education for those experiencing homelessness
- The SCDE MV Program Office strategic goal to reduce absenteeism

Chronic Absenteeism Rates by School Year



SCDE Mckinney-Vento Strategic Goal

Data

Reviewed State
and Local
Chronic
Absenteeism
Data



Actions

Explored best
practices and
strategies to improve
outcomes and moved
to implementation



Outcomes

Review Program
Data: Are we
moving the
needle?





Agenda #1

EveryDay Labs



EveryDay Labs & SCDE McKinney–Vento Partnership



Presented by
Sarah Billings

Report date
February 2026

An Industry-Leading Solution

This is how we make it happen for your district



Data Intelligence &
Collaboration Tools



Evidence-based
attendance campaigns

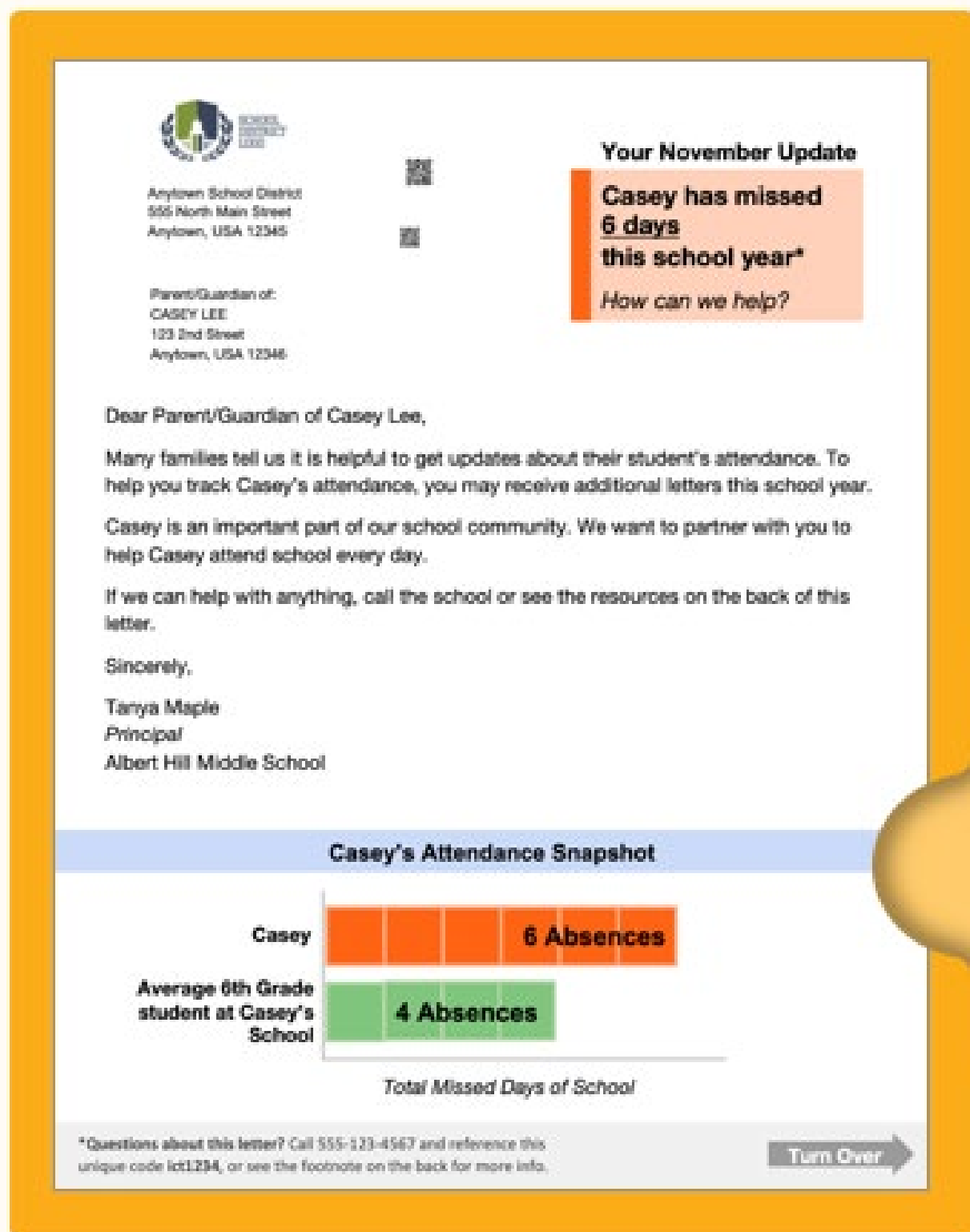


Individualized Family
Support



Expert professional
learning

Communications this school year



7,165
Letters sent out



32,506
Text nudges sent out

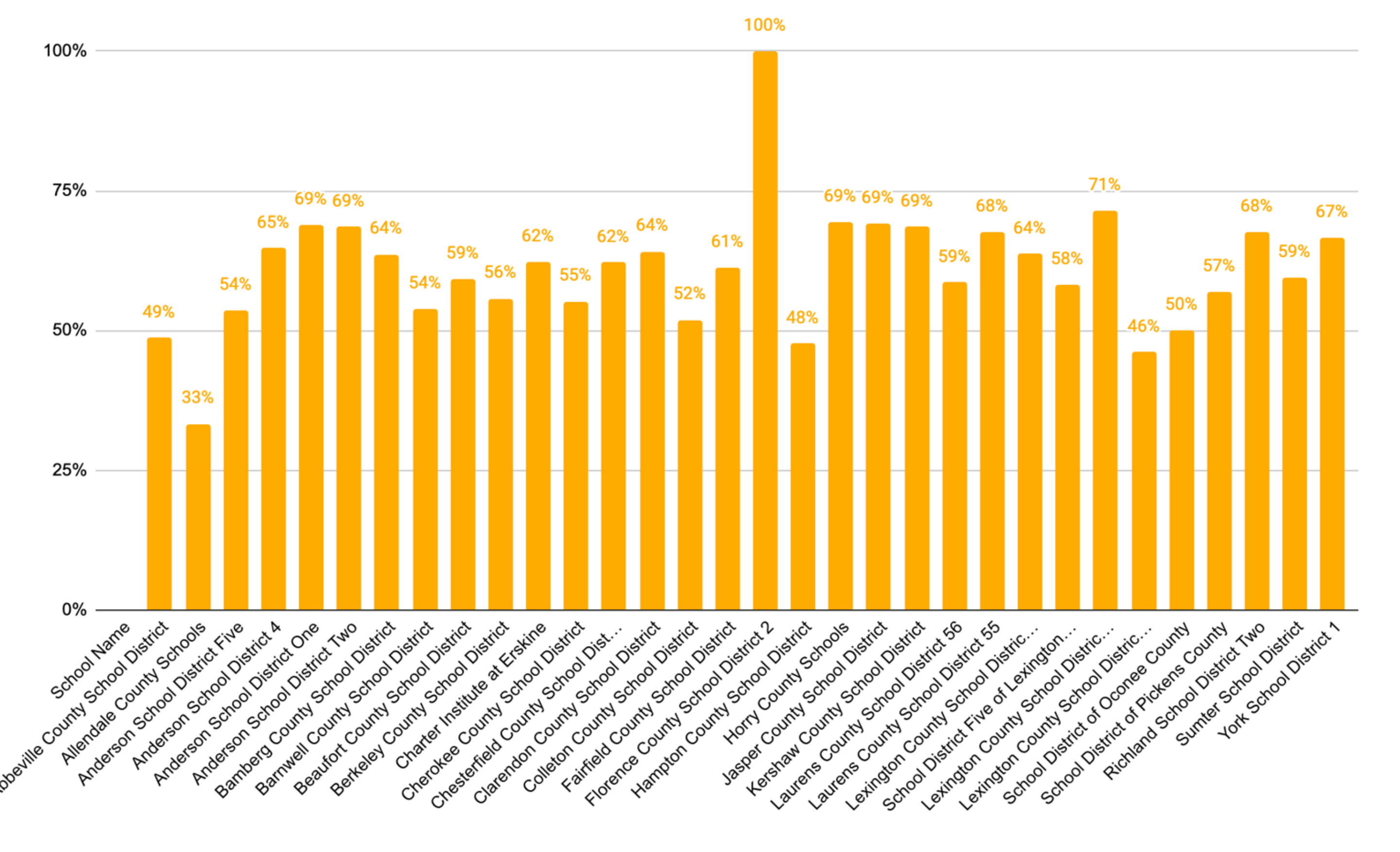
59.16%

of students
improved after
receiving a nudge

Improvement Rate

- 4,273 students received a text or mail nudge
- 2,528 students improved after receiving a text or mail nudge
- Lexington County School District 3 had the highest percentage of improvement with 71.43%

Improvement by District



Family Engagement

1,194 Resource Inquiries

306 Attendance
Inquiries

Family Support Referral

144
Inquiries

Transportation

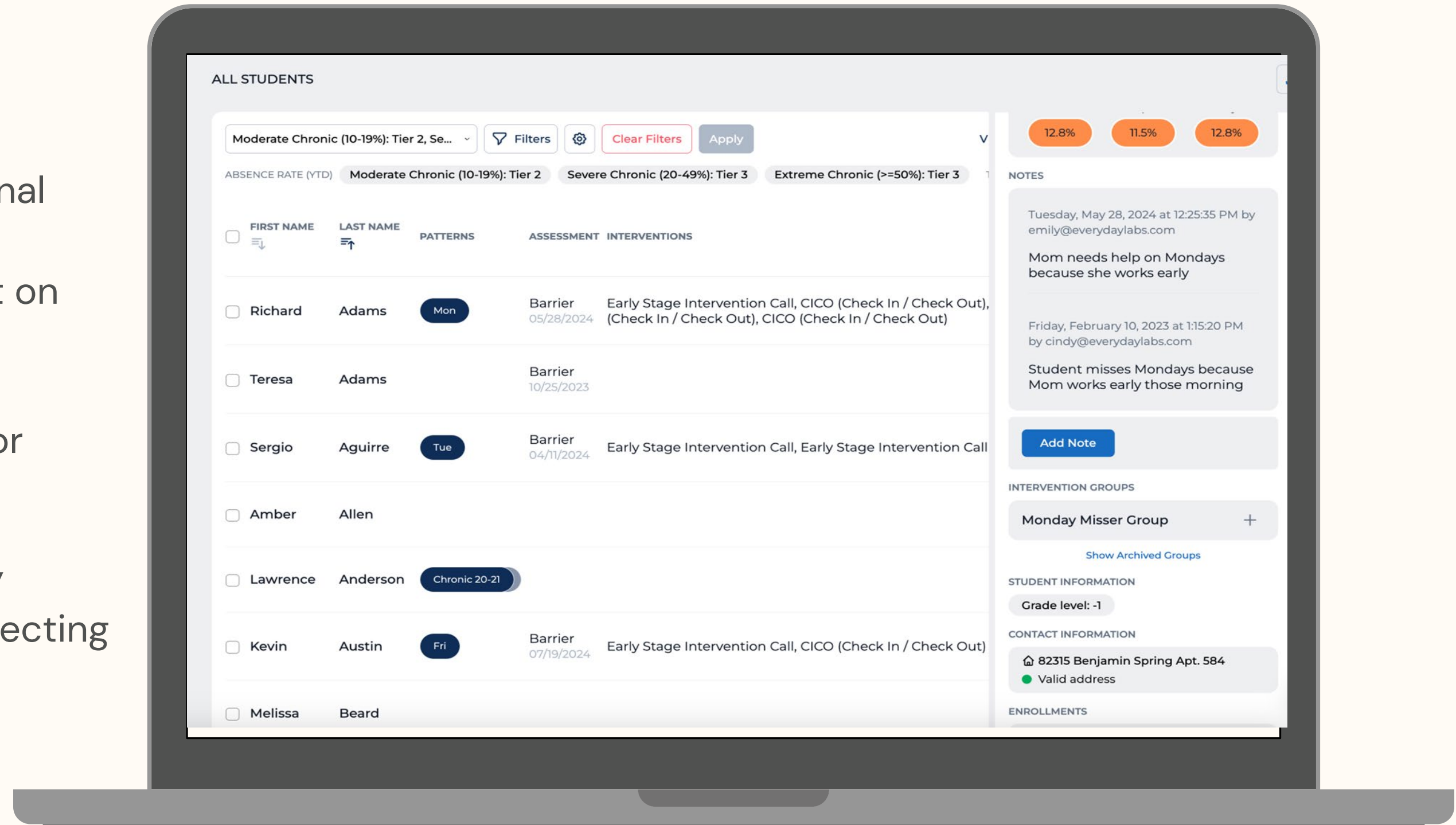
141
Inquiries

Clarifying Questions

141
Inquiries

EveryDay Pro Platform Statistics

- ➔ Evidence-backed foundational communication campaigns, personalized, printed, & sent on your behalf
- ➔ Built-in coordination tools for smarter team work
- ➔ Family Support Bot & Family Support Team directly connecting families to resources





DISTRICT ATTENDANCE CALENDAR Last updated 2022-08-28



NS = no school due to holiday, teacher work days, or other closures.

AUGUST

Monthly snapshot

Attendance Rate 94.2%

Chronic Absenteeism Rate 18.3%

MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI
2 NS	3 NS	4 NS	5 NS	6 NS
9 NS	10 NS	11 NS	12 99.8%	13 96.4%
16 96.3%	17 95.9%	18 95.6%	19 95.2%	20 93.3%
23 92.8%	24 93.4%	25 93.2%	26 92.8%	27 91.1%
30 91.3%	31 92.3%			

SEPTEMBER

Monthly snapshot

Attendance Rate 92.8%

Chronic Absenteeism Rate 19.0%

MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI
		1 92.6%	2 92.6%	3 90.2%
6 NS	7 91.5%	8 92.7%	9 93.3%	10 91.4%
13 92.2%	14 93.9%	15 93.6%	16 93.7%	17 91.7%
20 92.5%	21 93.8%	22 94.0%	23 93.7%	24 91.3%

>98%

Special Education Status

YTD

90.5%

91.0%

91.9%

92.3%

93.0%

93.0%

93.0%

93.5%

93.1%

92.7%



ALL STUDENTS

52231 Student Profiles

View: 25 Tag

+ Filter

Shortcuts

Chronically Absent

High Risk

Immediate Intervention

Recurring Chronic

☐	FIRST NAME	LAST NAME	GRADE	SCHOOL	PATTERNS	ABSENCE COUNT (YTD)
☐	Vincent	James	11	Spring Gardens Elementary		0
☐	Joshua	Edwards	7	Elk Creek Middle School		0
☐	Thomas	Elliott	9	Elk Grove Elementary		0
☐	Yvette	Conley	12	East Shores Polytechnic		0
☐	Michael	Morgan	11	Elk Grove Elementary		0
☐	Steven	Green	10	Coral Springs Institute		0
☐	Jessica	Wilson	0	Spring Hill Prep School		0
☐	Jessica	Haney	3	Mountain View Polytechnic		0
☐	Tanya	Green	12	East Shores Polytechnic		0
☐	Morgan	Kramer	11	Crystal River Institute		0
☐	Madison	Kirby	10	Coral Springs Institute		0
☐	Joshua	Jackson	6	Elk Creek Middle School		0
☐	Zachary	Contreras	11	Oak Ridge Secondary		0
☐	Corey	Hall	8	Westside Charter		0
☐	Katie	Carroll	8	Sunny Hills Elementary		0
☐	Charles	Harvey	12	Crystal River Institute		0
☐	Rodney	Ellis	1	Wildwood Middle School		0
☐	Tiffany	Rogers	9	Oak Ridge Secondary		0
☐	Maria	Foster	4	Wildwood Middle School		0
☐	Joshua	Ryan	6	Spring Gardens Charter		0

All Filters

Search filters

Favorite Filters

Click the star next to a filter to add a favorite.

Attendance (Basic)

Attendance Tier

Daily Absence Count

Attendance (Advanced)

Absence Rate

Consecutive Absences

Consecutive Days Attended

Period Absence Count

Monthly Absence Rate

Enrollment and Grade Level

Absence Patterns

Absence Trends

Day of the Week Pattern

Previous Year Absence Rate

Early Absence Pattern

Demographics

Student Support

Tags

Address Validation

Opt Out Status

Communication History





Agenda #2

SchoolHouse Connection





SchoolHouse Connection works to overcome homelessness, from prenatal to postsecondary, through strategic advocacy and practical assistance in partnership with youth, families, schools, early childhood programs, institutions of higher education, and service providers.

Learn more:

schoolhouseconnection.org

Join our Newsletter:

bit.ly/4brxbor

SchoolHouse Connection's Attendance Project

About:

SchoolHouse Connection provided tailored technical assistance, a mini grant, and hosted a multi-sector, data-driven Community of Practice (CoP) for six diverse LEAs.

Participating LEAs included:

- **Fairfield County School District, South Carolina**
- Gresham-Barlow School District, Oregon
- Lamar Consolidated Independent School District, Texas
- Reach Cyber Charter School, Pennsylvania
- Reading School District, Pennsylvania

Project Design:

- Phase 1: Relationship-Building and Strategic Goal Development (Spring–Summer 2025)
- Phase 2: Communities of Practice (Fall 2025)
- Phase 3: Reflection, Refinement, and Continued Progress

Profile of Participating LEA:



McKinney-Vento Liaison: Danielle Mozie

Total Schools: 8

2024–2025 Enrolled Students: 2,103

LEA Type: Rural

Goal: At least five or 4% of identified McKinney-Vento students will demonstrate improvements in regular school attendance by the end of SY 25-26.

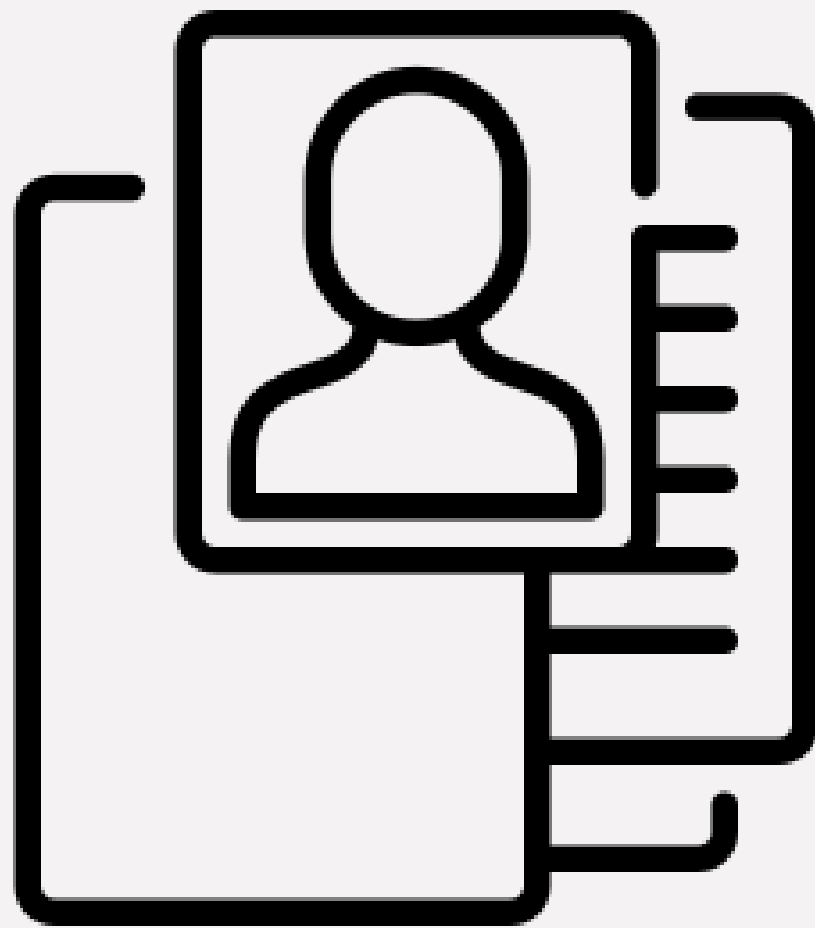
McKinney-Vento Identification:

- Start of School Year 2024–25: 133 students
- End of School Year 2024–25: 109 students

Outcomes to Date:

- Preliminary data from Fairfield CSD show that **the year-to-date attendance rate is 92.5%, up from 89.3% last school year.** The **chronic absenteeism rate has declined to 17.9%, compared with 44.2% last year.**
- Six families received short-term temporary housing support.
- **Just under half of the students** whose attendance Danielle has been regularly monitoring **have shown improved attendance this school year compared to last.**

Key Lessons Learned From LEAs



1. **Real-Time Attendance:** Essential for spotting and addressing chronic absenteeism among students experiencing homelessness; timely data enables faster intervention.
2. **Beyond Chronic Absence Rates:** Students may remain labeled chronically absent even after barriers are reduced; monitoring short-term attendance trends, engagement, or academic indicators captures progress more accurately.
3. **Flexible Attendance Strategies:** Initiatives must adapt to evolving circumstances and the unique needs of students experiencing homelessness.

Recommended Actions for LEAs



1. **Assess Strengths and Gaps:** Review attendance data, staffing, and policies to identify areas for improvement and successes. Use multiple data sources to guide goals, staffing, funding, and targeted interventions.
2. **Prioritize Data-Driven Adjustments:** Regularly review attendance data, including by homelessness status, to make timely updates and track progress even when chronic absenteeism changes slowly.
3. **Leverage Funding Strategically:** Use sustainable funding federal, state, and local to support long-term attendance initiatives beyond one-time pilots.
4. **Start Small and Iterate:** Pilot programs with specific students or schools to test, learn, and refine before scaling district-wide.

WEBINAR DATE: MARCH 25, 2026

Learning from Local Educational Agencies (LEAs): Practical Actions to Improve Attendance for Students Experiencing Homelessness

Time: 3-4:15 PM Eastern

REGISTER 





SchoolHouse
Connection



Sign up for our newsletter to receive:

- Important legislative updates
- Useful resources, including tips, tools, and guides
- Webinar announcements
- News related to education and homelessness



<https://bit.ly/4brxbor>



Contact Information



SchoolHouse
Connection



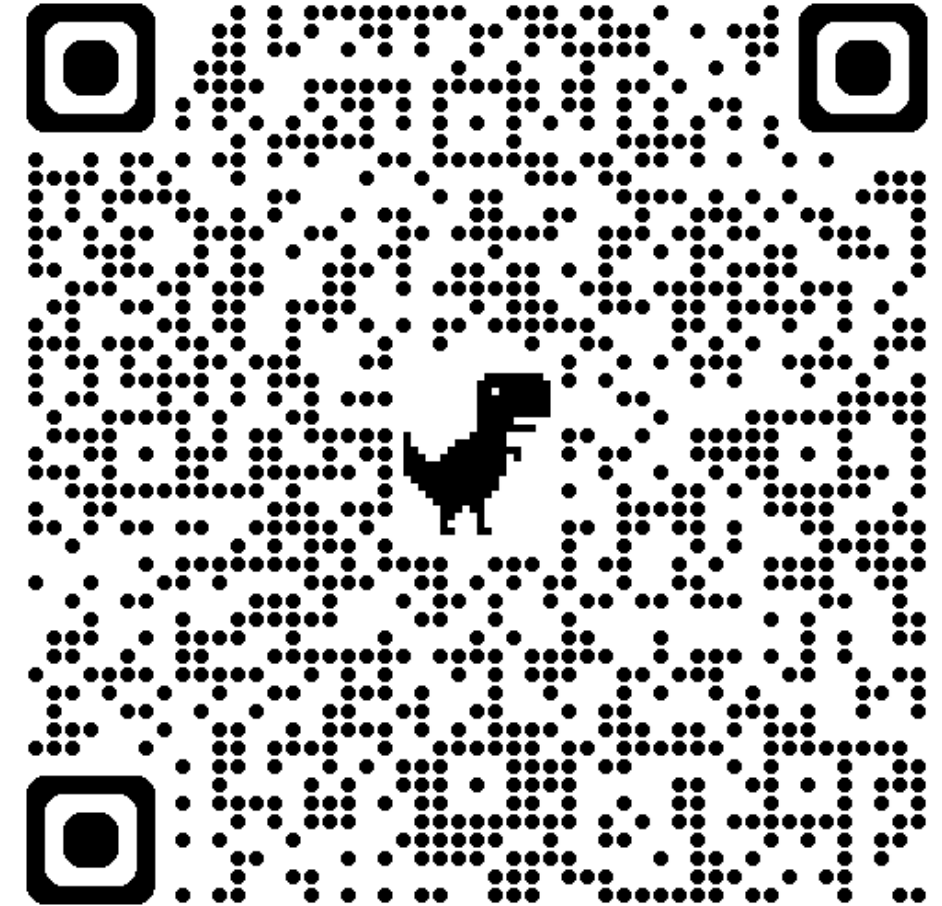
Anasofia Trelles

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Chronic Absenteeism Engagement and Support

- If your district is interested fill out the Memo (The only thing needed us the signature from LEA Superintendent)
- This contract currently ends **June 30th, 2027.**



McKinney- Vento Resources

[ED McKinney-Vento Non-Regulatory Guidance, 2017](#)

[National Center for Homeless Education](#)

[SchoolHouse Connection](#)

[SCDE McKinney-Vento Webpage](#)



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