

# Chronic Absenteeism

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Chronic absenteeism, which represents lost instructional time for students, is gaining nationwide awareness. Student attendance is strongly correlated to academic achievement, graduation rates, and postsecondary success. Research indicates that schools and districts can have an impact on student absenteeism rates.

Chronic absenteeism is one of several indicators on the new Oklahoma School Report Card, which is designed to give parents and communities an annual snapshot of student learning, progress, and achievement at the local level. Including chronic absenteeism on the new school report card will highlight local efforts to prioritize student attendance.

OSDE is ready to support schools, families, and communities as they work together to improve attendance. We encourage schools to identify their local needs, build community partnerships and formulate a plan to help students get to school **on time** every day.

**For Banner School that means arriving by 8:25 and being in the classroom, seated, prepared for class and ready to learn at 8:30. Students arriving in class after 8:30, unexcused, are considered tardy and are subject to truancy.**

## **What is Chronic Absenteeism?**

A student is considered chronically absent after missing **10 percent** or more of school days. ***This includes both excused and unexcused absences.*** Missing 10 percent of school days would be approximately 16 days in a normal 165-day school calendar – 8 days per semester and less than **two days** per month!

Chronic absenteeism looks beyond truancy and average daily attendance to shine a light on how missing school days can affect an individual student's path to success.

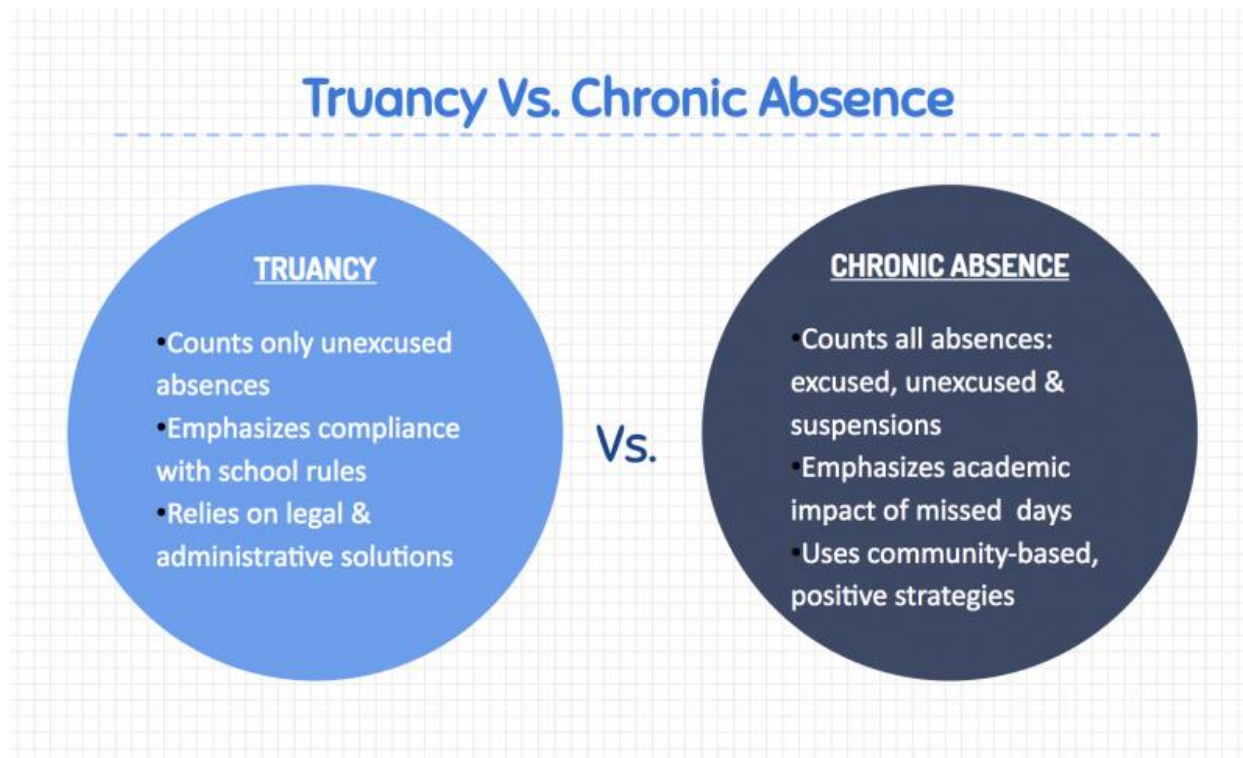
## **WHY CHRONIC ABSENTEEISM?**

Chronic absenteeism is linked to lower academic performance, higher dropout rates and diminished success after high school. A student is considered chronically absent if he or she misses 10 percent or more of school days for any reason – excused or unexcused. This accountability indicator collects information on all lost instructional time to ensure that root causes of absence are not hidden. Thirty-six states, including Oklahoma, have adopted chronic absenteeism as the nonacademic indicator in their accountability systems to serve as an early warning sign for students. A recent study showed that students who were chronically absent in kindergarten and first grade were significantly behind their peers in grade 3 reading; only 17 percent were reading on grade level, compared to 64 percent with consistent attendance. This study and other important research conducted by AttendanceWorks, a national initiative leading

attendance awareness, help explore the connection between attendance and achievement.

Findings are available here:

<http://awareness.attendanceworks.org/wp-content/uploads/Research2016.pdf>



To alleviate truancy issues, the school's student information system makes calls to parents daily to advise of tardy and absence marks. Banner School offers student transportation to all of its students. Bus transportation assures students will arrive to school on time, every school day.