



At-A-Glance: Chronic Absenteeism

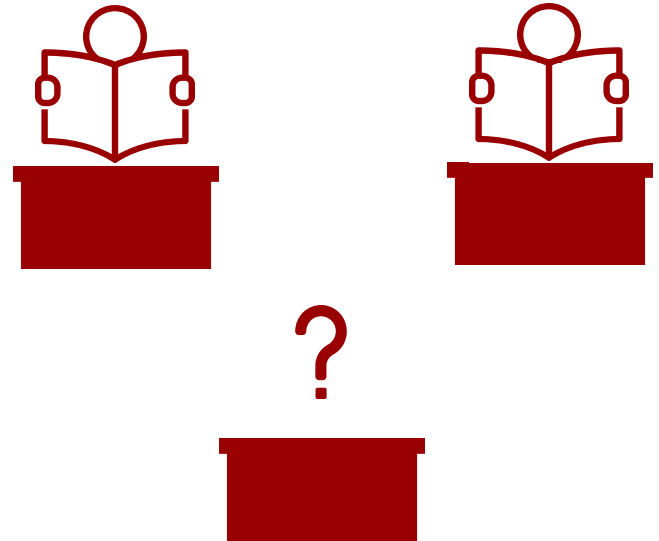
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Chronic absenteeism is a term used to describe excessive student absences from school for any reason. The term does not differentiate between excused and unexcused absences because both are a measure of lost instructional time.

Any absences occurring at any time of year, at any grade level (K-12), and for any reason (e.g., student choice, illness, transportation issues, and out-of-school suspensions) all count toward a student's chronic absenteeism status.



Unlike truancy, chronic absenteeism is not defined in Tennessee state law. However, the Tennessee Department of Education classifies students as chronically absent when they miss at least 10 percent of the school year, or approximately 18 days.



Chronic absenteeism can be an early warning indicator of potential student performance problems.

Beginning in the 2017-18 school year, chronic absenteeism will be a part of district and school accountability.