

# School Attendance

## Definition

Attendance is a school district's average daily attendance and rate based on enrollment.

## Data in context

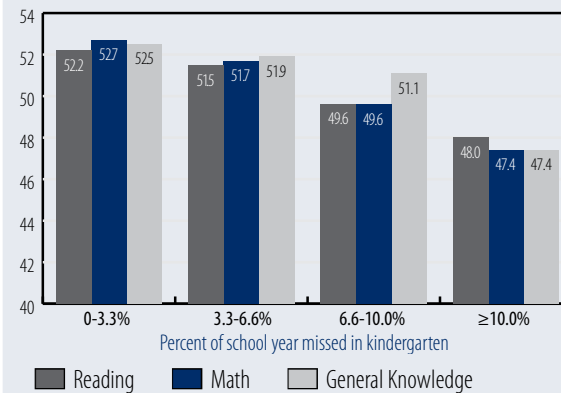
All students need to be both present and engaged to succeed in school and ensure a strong foundation for subsequent learning.<sup>1</sup> Students do better in school when they attend regularly.<sup>2</sup> Yet chronic absenteeism continues to be a national problem and serves as an early warning sign for academic problems, dropping out of school, and engaging in illegal activity.<sup>3</sup>

Research shows that all children, regardless of gender, income level, or ethnicity, suffer academically when they are chronically absent (meaning they miss nearly one month of school or more over the course of the school year).<sup>4</sup> However, regular attendance is especially critical for young children from families living in poverty, who have fewer resources to help make up for missed school time.<sup>5</sup> Among children living in poverty, chronic absence in kindergarten is directly linked to low academic achievement in the fifth grade.<sup>6</sup>

Most students who miss school frequently identify similar reasons for absenteeism, such as poor relationships with teachers, not feeling challenged, and the school lacking supports to help them succeed.<sup>7</sup> Attendance also suffers when families are struggling with lack of transportation, poorly paying jobs with inflexible work hours, housing instability, inadequate health care, and escalating community violence.<sup>8</sup>

Students of color and students from families living in poverty are more likely to attend under-resourced schools with fewer academic opportunities and poorer teacher quality,<sup>9</sup> contributing to disparities in attendance rates. In 2005 in the United States, students of color, except for Asian students, were more likely than White students to have missed three or more days in the previous month.<sup>10</sup> Absenteeism was notably higher among American Indian students, and much lower among Asian students.<sup>11</sup> Low-income students were also more likely to have missed school regularly than their peers.<sup>12</sup>

**First Grade Academic Performance by Absenteeism in Kindergarten, U.S.**



Source: Romero, M., and Lee, Y.-S. (2007). *A National Portrait of Chronic Absenteeism in the Early Grades*. National Center for Children in Poverty.

Kentucky combines attendance data with assessment results in calculating school accountability for the state and also uses school attendance to determine a school district's state funding.<sup>13</sup> In Kentucky, the average daily attendance rate was 94 percent in SY 2007. Average daily attendance in school districts ranged from 91 percent in Knott County, Lawrence County, and Providence Independent School Districts to 97 percent in Anchorage Independent and Fort Thomas Independent School Districts. Statewide annual attendance rates in Kentucky have remained between 93 and 95 percent since SY 1993.<sup>14</sup> Attendance rates are generally lower for high school students, with 12th graders having the lowest attendance rates of any grade (91 percent in SY 2007).<sup>15</sup>

Schools and communities can take steps to address student attendance. Schools reduce absenteeism when they work to set clear and realistic attendance policies, create a positive culture, foster relationships between adults and students, and intervene early and appropriately when a pattern of absences emerges.<sup>16</sup> School districts can also use student data tracking systems to identify chronically absent students and better understand what factors contribute to their absences.<sup>17</sup>

Data Source: Kentucky Department of Education website.

Data Note: Independent school districts are listed after the school district for the county in which they are located.

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# School attendance (enrollment & average daily attendance rate per 100 students)

	SY 2003		SY 2007	
	Number	Rate	Number	Rate
<b>Kentucky</b>	<b>650,227</b>	<b>94</b>	<b>668,337</b>	<b>94</b>
Adair Co.	2,764	94	2,691	94
Allen Co.	3,107	95	3,140	94
Anderson Co.	3,716	95	3,911	94
Ballard Co.	1,429	95	1,403	95
Barren Co.	4,111	96	4,564	95
Caverna Ind.	794	95	787	93
Glasgow Ind.	1,990	95	2,052	95
Bath Co.	1,939	94	2,026	93
Bell Co.	3,146	92	3,187	93
Middlesboro Ind.	1,857	93	1,736	92
Pineville Ind.	664	95	566	95
Boone Co.	14,733	95	18,001	96
Walton Verona Ind.	1,078	97	1,323	96
Bourbon Co.	2,718	95	2,724	94
Paris Ind.	734	95	757	95
Boyd Co.	3,593	94	3,391	94
Ashland Ind.	3,348	95	3,274	95
Fairview Ind.	693	94	791	94
Boyle Co.	2,795	96	2,782	95
Danville Ind.	1,865	95	1,863	95
Bracken Co.	1,277	95	1,252	94
Augusta Ind.	265	94	289	94
Breathitt Co.	2,375	92	2,344	93
Jackson Ind.	597	94	420	96
Breckinridge Co.	2,732	96	2,716	95
Cloverport Ind.	293	97	300	96
Bullitt Co.	11,246	94	12,527	94
Butler Co.	2,187	95	2,155	94
Caldwell Co.	2,067	95	2,015	94
Calloway Co.	3,001	95	3,149	95
Murray Ind.	1,654	95	1,607	96
Campbell Co.	4,868	95	4,937	96
Bellevue Ind.	901	93	830	95
Dayton Ind.	1,133	94	1,017	95
Fort Thomas Ind.	2,306	96	2,413	97
Newport Ind.	2,675	93	2,087	95
Silver Grove Ind.	331	93	310	94
Southgate Ind.	184	95	149	96
Carlisle Co.	841	96	821	96
Carroll Co.	1,849	93	1,927	93
Carter Co.	4,920	93	4,992	92
Casey Co.	2,429	94	2,546	94
Christian Co.	9,794	94	9,812	95
Clark Co.	5,381	94	5,609	94

	SY 2003		SY 2007	
	Number	Rate	Number	Rate
Clay Co.	4,099	92	3,783	92
Clinton Co.	1,591	94	1,690	93
Crittenden Co.	1,362	96	1,323	94
Cumberland Co.	1,175	94	1,127	94
Daviess Co.	10,534	96	11,092	96
Owensboro Ind.	4,094	95	4,143	95
Edmonson Co.	2,084	95	2,103	95
Elliott Co.	1,227	93	1,174	93
Estill Co.	2,645	94	2,516	94
Fayette Co.	34,196	94	35,559	94
Fleming Co.	2,495	95	2,430	94
Floyd Co.	6,971	92	6,658	92
Franklin Co.	5,892	95	6,048	94
Frankfort Ind.	894	95	890	94
Fulton Co.	799	95	663	95
Fulton Ind.	543	95	471	94
Gallatin Co.	1,461	93	1,583	94
Garrard Co.	2,510	92	2,643	94
Grant Co.	3,861	94	3,966	94
Williamstown Ind.	813	96	908	96
Graves Co.	4,578	96	4,765	96
Mayfield Ind.	1,512	96	1,550	95
Grayson Co.	4,165	95	4,309	95
Green Co.	1,658	95	1,727	95
Greenup Co.	3,274	94	3,195	93
Raceland Ind.	1,025	95	1,096	95
Russell Ind.	2,170	94	2,230	95
Hancock Co.	1,551	96	1,607	96
Hardin Co.	13,563	96	14,378	95
Elizabethtown Ind.	2,354	96	2,352	96
West Point Ind.	155	94	160	95
Harlan Co.	5,060	91	4,619	92
Harlan Ind.	875	94	818	95
Harrison Co.	3,204	95	3,255	95
Hart Co.	2,414	95	2,433	95
Henderson Co.	7,067	95	7,122	95
Henry Co.	2,170	95	2,156	95
Eminence Ind.	721	95	743	95
Hickman Co.	802	96	790	96
Hopkins Co.	7,203	95	7,181	95
Dawson Springs Ind.	693	95	678	95
Jackson Co.	2,400	93	2,320	92
Jefferson Co.	94,388	94	96,325	94
Anchorage Ind.	444	97	417	97
Jessamine Co.	7,005	93	7,497	93

	SY 2003		SY 2007	
	Number	Rate	Number	Rate
Johnson Co.	3,788	96	3,782	93
Paintsville Ind.	841	95	875	94
Kenton Co.	12,510	95	13,537	95
Beechwood Ind.	1,004	96	1,031	96
Covington Ind.	4,577	93	4,201	94
Erlanger-Elsmere Ind.	2,260	95	2,406	95
Ludlow Ind.	1,035	94	948	95
Knott Co.	2,880	91	2,593	91
Knox Co.	4,852	93	4,907	92
Barbourville Ind.	684	93	613	93
LaRue Co.	2,405	96	2,463	96
Laurel Co.	8,971	94	9,383	93
East Bernstadt Ind.	469	96	495	96
Lawrence Co.	2,801	91	2,636	91
Lee Co.	1,300	94	1,180	93
Leslie Co.	2,246	92	1,963	92
Letcher Co.	3,608	93	3,388	92
Jenkins Ind.	585	91	621	92
Lewis Co.	2,479	94	2,529	94
Lincoln Co.	4,211	94	4,276	94
Livingston Co.	1,419	95	1,346	94
Logan Co.	3,352	95	3,593	96
Russellville Ind.	1,248	95	1,104	95
Lyon Co.	1,044	95	1,022	95
McCracken Co.	6,947	96	7,208	96
Paducah Ind.	3,140	94	3,043	95
McCreary Co.	3,533	93	3,496	92
McLean Co.	1,649	95	1,630	94
Madison Co.	9,553	94	10,575	94
Berea Ind.	1,075	94	1,092	93
Magoffin Co.	2,447	92	2,416	92
Marion Co.	3,058	96	3,189	95
Marshall Co.	4,819	96	4,868	95
Martin Co.	2,471	93	2,297	92
Mason Co.	2,817	94	2,880	94
Meade Co.	4,618	95	4,912	95
Menifee Co.	1,195	94	1,205	94
Mercer Co.	2,249	96	3,231	95
Burgin Ind.	441	95	470	95
Harrodsburg Ind.	960	^	**	**
Metcalfe Co.	1,633	95	1,712	94
Monroe Co.	2,046	95	2,060	95
Montgomery Co.	4,053	94	4,528	93
Morgan Co.	2,316	94	2,217	92
Muhlenberg Co.	5,158	95	5,304	95

	SY 2003		SY 2007	
	Number	Rate	Number	Rate
Nelson Co.	4,822	95	4,825	95
Bardstown Ind.	1,973	95	2,264	94
Nicholas Co.	1,188	94	1,201	93
Ohio Co.	4,004	95	4,021	94
Oldham Co.	9,671	96	11,566	96
Owen Co.	1,951	94	1,966	95
Owsley Co.	869	92	819	92
Pendleton Co.	2,905	95	2,871	95
Perry Co.	4,697	92	4,465	92
Hazard Ind.	952	94	945	94
Pike Co.	10,402	94	10,039	94
Pikeville Ind.	1,246	95	1,298	95
Powell Co.	2,591	94	2,594	94
Pulaski Co.	7,827	94	7,950	95
Science Hill Ind.	482	96	466	96
Somerset Ind.	1,572	95	1,516	94
Robertson Co.	396	93	383	94
Rockcastle Co.	2,996	95	3,025	94
Rowan Co.	3,094	94	3,200	94
Russell Co.	2,836	95	3,009	94
Scott Co.	6,207	94	7,450	94
Shelby Co.	5,519	94	6,335	94
Simpson Co.	3,068	95	3,150	94
Spencer Co.	2,201	95	2,671	94
Taylor Co.	2,647	96	2,654	95
Campbellsville Ind.	1,239	94	1,122	94
Todd Co.	2,044	95	2,122	95
Trigg Co.	2,094	94	2,152	94
Trimble Co.	1,606	95	1,687	94
Union Co.	2,525	95	2,553	94
Warren Co.	11,476	95	12,502	95
Bowling Green Ind.	3,630	95	3,854	95
Washington Co.	1,870	96	1,833	96
Wayne Co.	2,698	94	2,554	95
Monticello Ind.	826	94	864	94
Webster Co.	1,986	95	1,920	95
Providence Ind.	427	93	335	91
Whitley Co.	4,686	93	4,766	93
Corbin Ind.	2,210	94	2,348	94
Williamsburg Ind.	802	94	793	94
Wolfe Co.	1,339	94	1,340	93
Woodford Co.	3,829	95	3,998	95

^ Data not available.

\*\* District merged with Mercer County School District.