

“Each and Every Student”

Our unwavering commitment is to meet the needs of *each and every student*.



Tonight's Focus: The Attendance Gap



WSD Definition of Attendance Gap

- Students absent 7 or more days during the 2016-2017 School Year
- Reasons for School Absences:
 - Illness/Treatments
 - Travel
 - Family Manner
 - Truancy/School Avoidance

What does the research say about the attendance gap?

- Students who miss as few as two days of school per month experience a negative impact on their academic success, particularly in the early years.
- Minority and low-income students are more likely to be chronically absent nationally.

What strategies or programs are currently in place to address attendance concerns?

- Building relationships with guidance counselors, Home & School visitor, and administration
- Safety calls to parent/guardian
- **Truancy elimination plans/Attendance improvement plans**
- Information about before care programs within the community
- **Secondary level: weekly attendance groups**
- High School: School Messenger Wake-Up call 6:45 a.m.

Attendance Gap 2016-2017 Research Question

Do students from a particular subgroup or socio-economic status (identified by F&R) have more frequent absences than other students?

Percentage of students with seven (7) or more days of absence by school

| <u>School Name</u> | <u>Total Population</u> | <u>Absent Population</u> | <u>Percentage</u> |
|--------------------|-------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------|
| Blue Bell | 409 | 143 | 35% |
| Lower Gwynedd | 570 | 217 | 38% |
| Shady Grove | 604 | 248 | 41% |
| Stony Creek | 497 | 168 | 34% |
| WMS | 1073 | 392 | 37% |
| WHS | 1328 | 592 | 45% |

Students with seven (7) or more days of absence by gender

| <u>School Name</u> | <u>Females</u> | <u>Males</u> |
|----------------------|----------------|--------------|
| Blue Bell | 62 | 81 |
| Lower Gwynedd | 113 | 104 |
| Shady Grove | 124 | 124 |
| Stony Creek | 81 | 87 |
| WMS | 188 | 204 |
| WHS | 315 | 277 |

Percentage of students with seven (7) or more days of absence by ethnicity

| <u>Educational Level</u> | <u>Asian</u> | <u>Black</u> | <u>Hispanic</u> | <u>Multi-Racial</u> | <u>White</u> |
|--------------------------|---------------|---------------|-----------------|---------------------|-----------------|
| Elementary | 45/327 14% | 23/195 12% | 8/160 5% | 10/131 7% | 781/1239 63% |
| Middle School | 9/117 8% | 13/107 12% | 4/69 6% | 4/72 6% | 477/691 69% |
| High School | 36/187 19% | 73/152 48% | 40/65 62% | 32/60 53% | 410/866 47% |

Attendance Gap 2016-2017 Research Question and Answer

Question:

Do students from a particular subgroup or socio-economic status (identified by F&R) have more frequent absences (7 or more days) than other students?

Answers:

- Students who receive free or reduced lunch have a better attendance rate than those who purchase.
 - (free = 10%; reduced = 1% and payment = 74%).
- The white subgroup had the highest absenteeism rate as compared to their proportional representation in the district.
- The Asian subgroup had the lowest absenteeism rate as compared to their proportional representation in the district.

What is the focus of our work during the 2017-18 school year?

- Analyze the root causes of the absent rate
- Analyze if the number of unexcused and unlawful absentees increase as students move from the elementary to the secondary levels (middle school and high school)

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The Attendance Gap

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