

WHAT ARE SCHOOL ATTENDANCE PROBLEMS?

When a child, 5-17 years old, struggles to attend school regularly, or remain in class for an entire day.

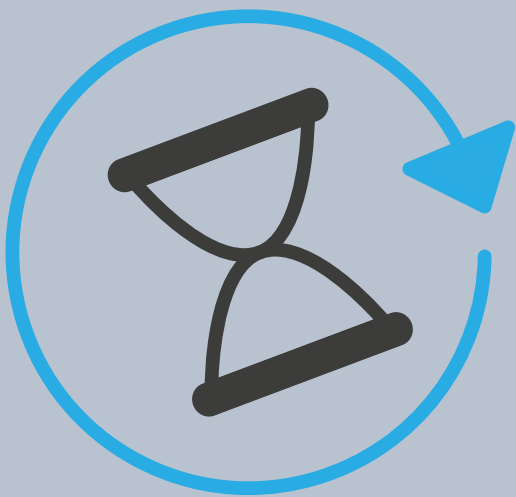
INFLUENCED BY MULTIPLE SIMULTANEOUS FACTORS:

- Medical
- Mental health
- Family/community
- School related
- Contextual



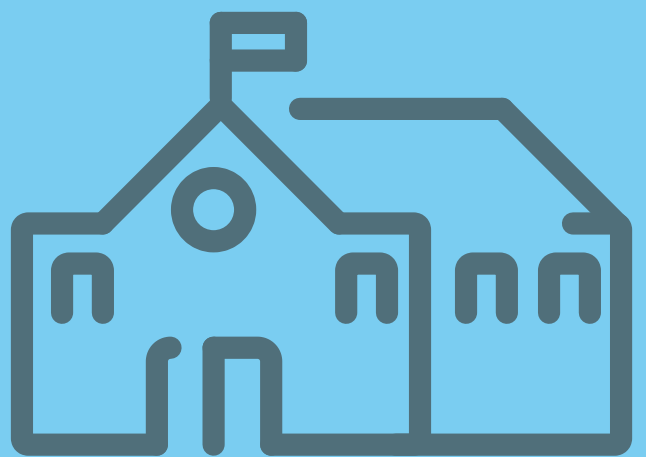
OCCURS ACROSS A SPECTRUM OF SEVERITY:

- Tardiness
- Missing a class period
- Over a day
- Still attending despite discomfort



DIFFERENT TYPES OF ABSENCE:

- Excusable or inexcusable
- Chronic or acute
- Periodic, excessive, or inconsistent



CAN BECOME PROBLEMATIC WHEN...

- Absent for 25% of total school time over 2 weeks (approx. 2.5 days)
- Significant difficulties with attendance for at least 2 weeks
- Absent 10 days in 15 weeks (approx. 13%)
- Recent research suggesting after missing 10% of school over 3 months

CAN CAUSE SUBSTANTIAL AND LASTING IMPACT ON

- ... LEARNING AND ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT
- ... AT-RISK BEHAVIORS (DRUG USE, TEEN-PREGNANCY, SCHOOL DROP-OUT)
- ... EMPLOYMENT AND HIGHER EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES
- ... SOCIAL AND EMOTIONAL DEVELOPMENT
- ... MENTAL HEALTH

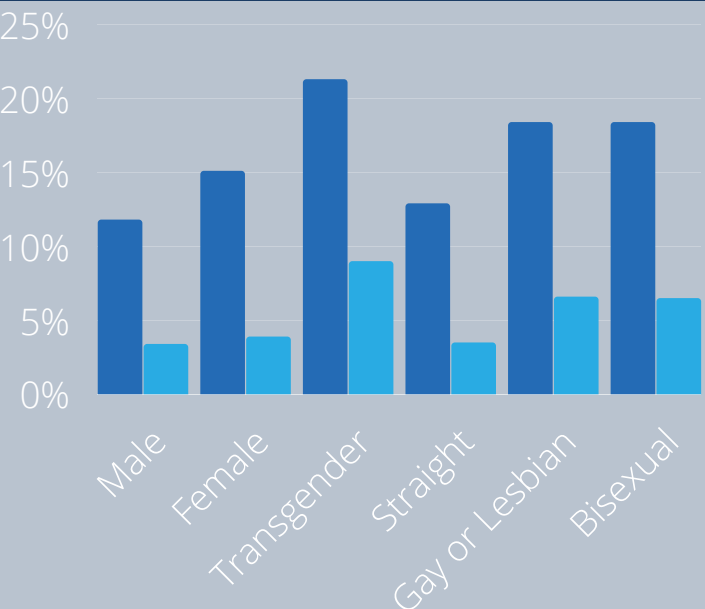
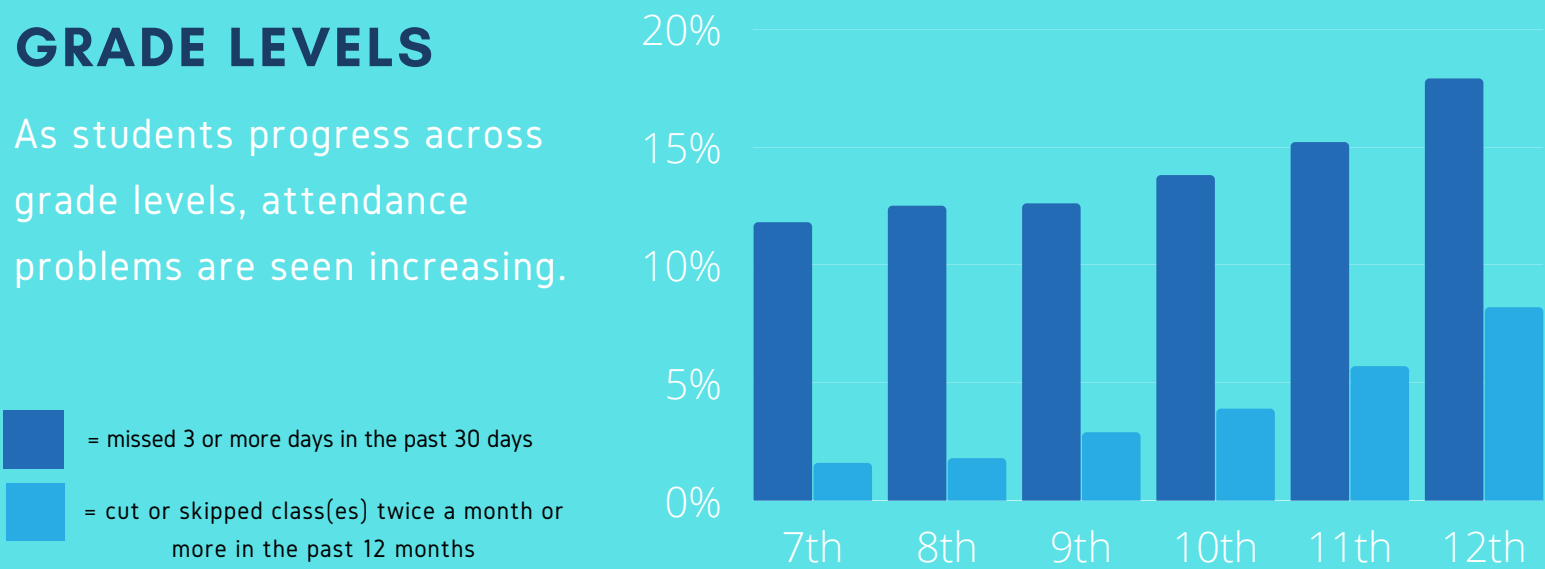
SCHOOL ATTENDANCE PROBLEMS IN CALIFORNIA



Based on the CA Healthy Kids Survey

GRADE LEVELS

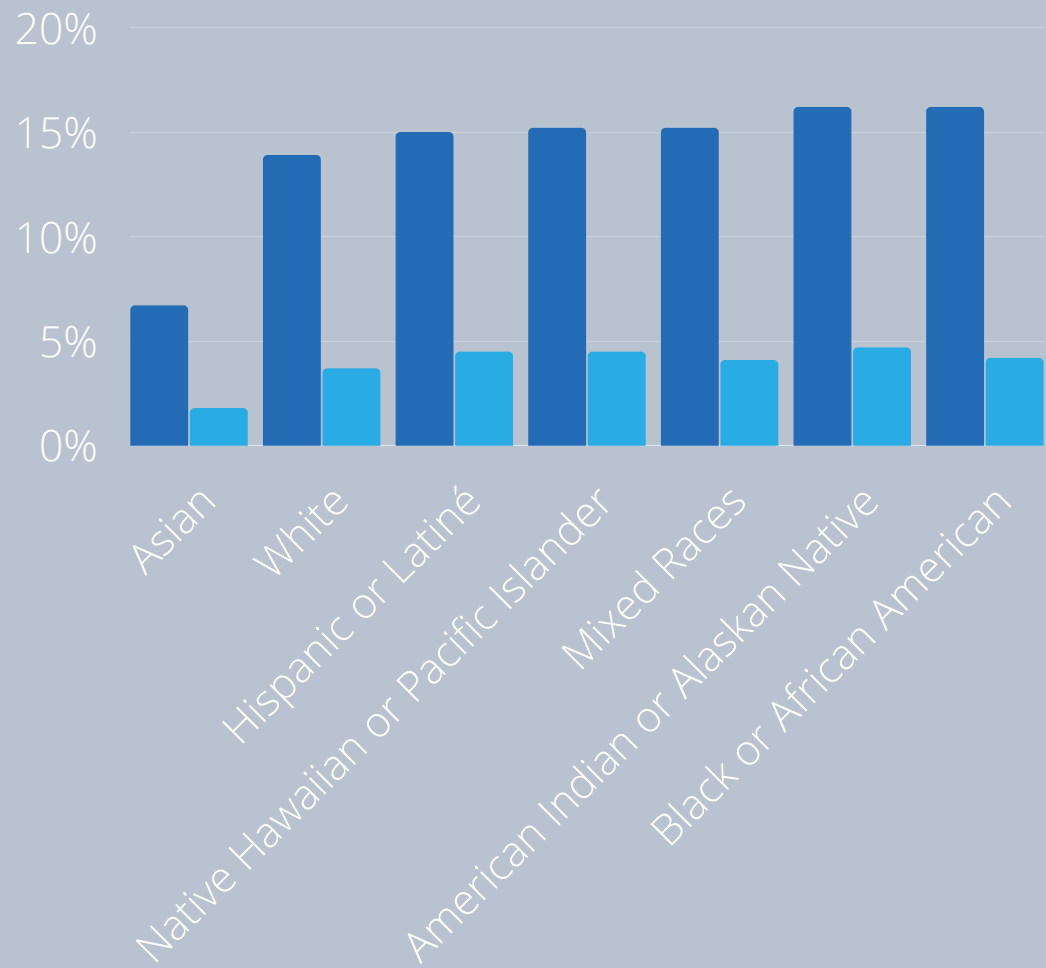
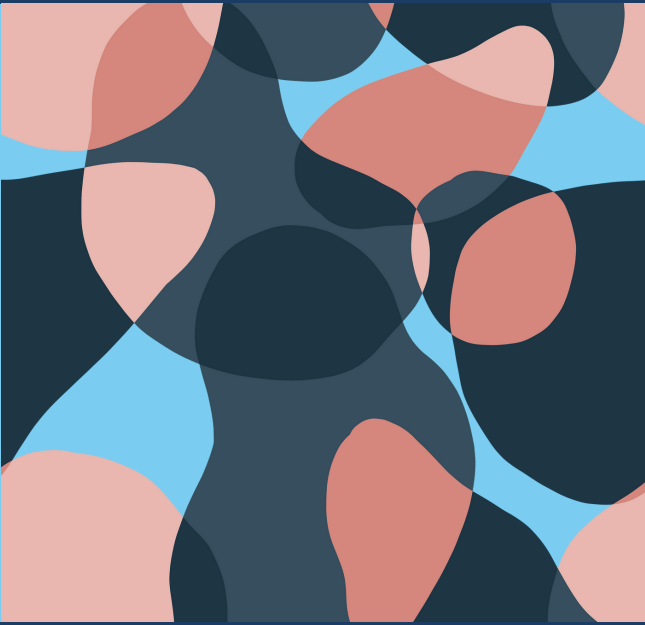
As students progress across grade levels, attendance problems are seen increasing.



GENDER & SEXUAL ORIENTATION

More Transgender, Gay, Lesbian, and Bisexual students reported attendance problems compared to straight male and female students.

PATTERNS OF SOCIAL INJUSTICE ARE EVIDENT IN POPULATIONS OF STUDENTS WHO PRESENT SCHOOL REFUSAL BEHAVIOR



SELECT STUDENTS OF COLOR REPORTED MORE ATTENDANCE PROBLEMS WHEN COMPARED TO WHITE OR ASIAN STUDENTS



USING THE DUAL-FACTOR MODEL

to consider the complete mental health of students with school refusal behavior



SUBJECTIVE WELL-BEING

Overall, students who reported missing or skipping school more frequently also reported a significant decrease in their subjective well-being.

PSYCHOLOGICAL DISTRESS

Overall, students who reported missing or skipping school more frequently reported a significant increase in their psychological distress.

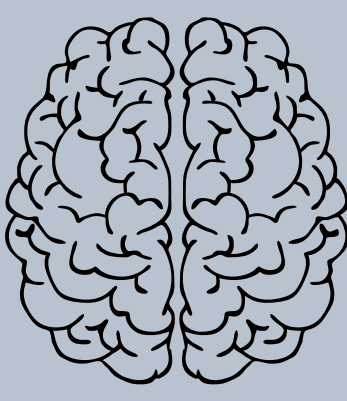


Resources for subjective well-being in schools



CoVitality Project

More mental health resources



SAMHSA

More school-based resources



NIMH

Reference:

Maupin, Z. D., Griffiths, A. J., & Torres, R. [2023]. Attendance Matters: Empowering School Psychologists as Leaders in Addressing School Attendance Problems. Workshop presentation presented at the 2023 meeting of the California Association of School Psychologists in Costa Mesa, CA.

Thank you!