Cresskill High School Back-to-School Night

Principal's Welcome

September 24th, 2026

Welcome & Introductions

- **Lauren Thomas**- Superintendent
- **John Massaro**- Principal
- **Thiana Vazquez**- Assistant Principal
- **David Sposato**- Assistant Principal for Student Support Services
- **Kevin Quinn**- Dean of Students
- **Lana Shtofmakher**- Middle School Guidance Counselor
- **Roseann Collins & Lori DiStasi**- Main Office Secretaries
- **Janelle Amato**- Director of Special Services
- **Veronica Mullen**- Athletic Director/Supervisor of Health & Physical Education
- **Nadine McGrath**- Curriculum Director
  - Math and World Language
- **Grace Chun**- Supervisor of Curriculum & Instruction
  - ELA, Multilingual Learners, Music
- **Alexis Peck**- Supervisor of Curriculum & Instruction
  - Science, Social Studies, Business, Art

Our mission is to foster a culture of EXCELLENCE for ALL

We strive to empower our students to become leaders, critical thinkers, and people of integrity, while promoting individual development, curiosity and life-long learning.

We value the importance of mental health and social and emotional intelligence. We prioritize creating a community, grounded in inclusivity, that supports and inspires one another.

Through our commitment to these values, we aim to prepare our students to become responsible and engaged citizens who contribute to the betterment of the world.

Chain of Communication

The Cresskill School District values quality communication as the foundation of supportive working relationships. In order to best achieve this goal, we encourage students and families to first contact their teachers, coaches, advisors, and counselors directly with any questions or concerns. If students and families still seek resolution after such communication, our administrative team is available to further support the communication process.

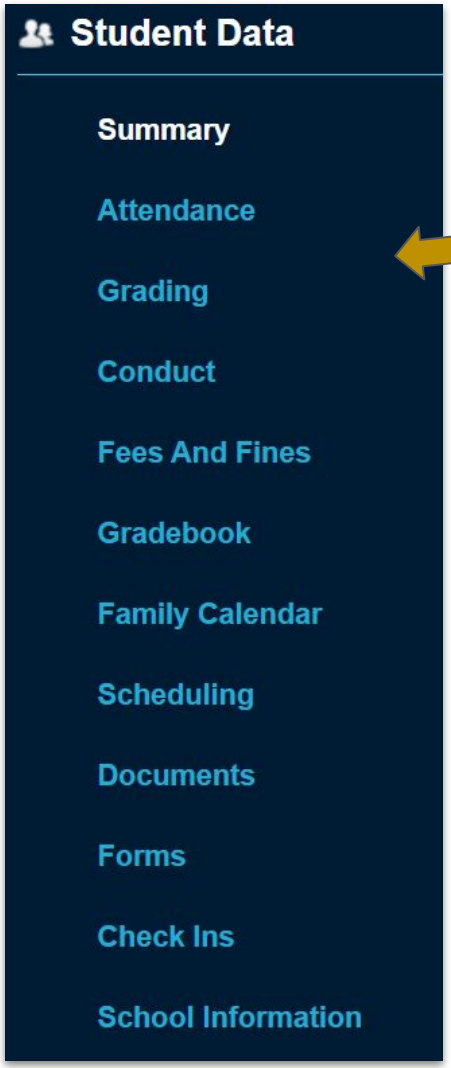
Procedural Communications

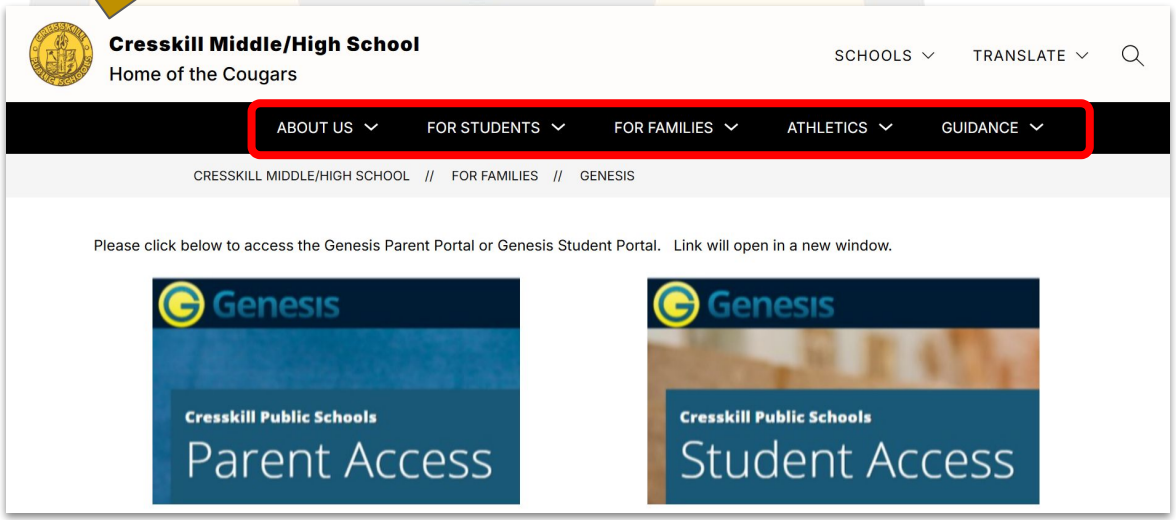
9/11/26 email “New Procedural Communications”

- **Genesis-generated email messages for procedural infractions**
  - **Chromebook Preparedness**
  - **Cell Phone Infractions**
  - **Temporary ID Requests**
- **Other Conduct events for behavioral concerns will direct email and/or phone call from school administrators**

Genesis & School Website

- Genesis - Your primary source for student records
  - Attendance, grades, scheduling, conduct, etc.
- School website
  - Alerts, news, FAQs, information, etc.





Class of 2026 College Enrollment

American University
Belmont University
Bergen Community College
Binghamton University
Boston College
Carnegie Mellon University
Case Western Reserve University
College of Charleston
Concordia University
Cooper Union
Cornell University
John Jay College of Criminal Justice
Emerson College
Fairfield University
Fashion Institute of Technology
Flagler College
Florida Institute of Technology
Florida State University
Georgia Institute of Technology
Harvard University
Indiana University
Iona University
Ithaca College
Lehigh University
Loyola Marymount University
Marist University
Miami Dade College
Middlebury College
Montclair State University
Muhlenberg College
New York University
Northeastern University
Pace University
Penn State University
Ramapo College
Reichman University (IDC Herzliya)
Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute
Ringling College of Art and Design
Rochester Institute of Technology
Rowan University
Rutgers University
Sacred Heart University
San Diego State University
Savannah College of Art & Design
Southern New Hampshire University
Spelman College
St. Joseph's University
St. Thomas Aquinas College
Stevens Institute of Technology
SUNY-Cortland
Syracuse University
Tel Aviv University
The College of New Jersey
The Ohio State University
University of Albany
University of California- Los Angeles
University of Colorado
University of Florida
University of Maine
University of Maryland
University of Michigan
University of Mississippi
University of Notre Dame
University of Pittsburgh
University of Rhode Island
Virginia State University
William Paterson University
Williams College

Cresskill High School: A Culture of Excellence

Cresskill High School (CHS) is a highly-ranked, comprehensive public high school in Bergen County, New Jersey. With a small, close-knit population of 489 students, the school offers a rigorous college-preparatory curriculum balanced with extensive extracurricular and real-world learning opportunities.

Academic Excellence & Outcomes

88%
Four-Year College Matriculation

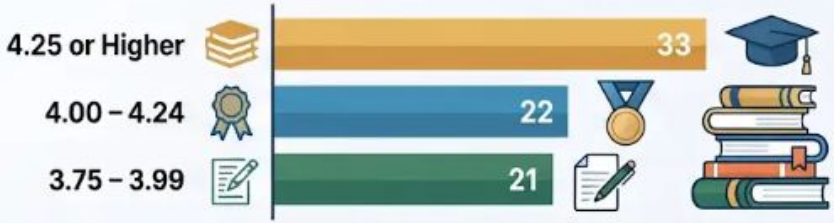
Most graduates advance to four-year institutions, including Ivy League and top-tier universities.

1273
Average SAT Score

Students consistently outperform benchmarks with a mean ERW of 633 and Math of 640.

33.1
Mean ACT Composite

CHS students demonstrate high proficiency across English, Math, Reading, and Science.



Rigorous Curriculum & Holistic Growth

Extensive AP & Honors Offerings

Advanced Placement courses are available across all disciplines, from Multi-Variable Calculus to Studio Art.

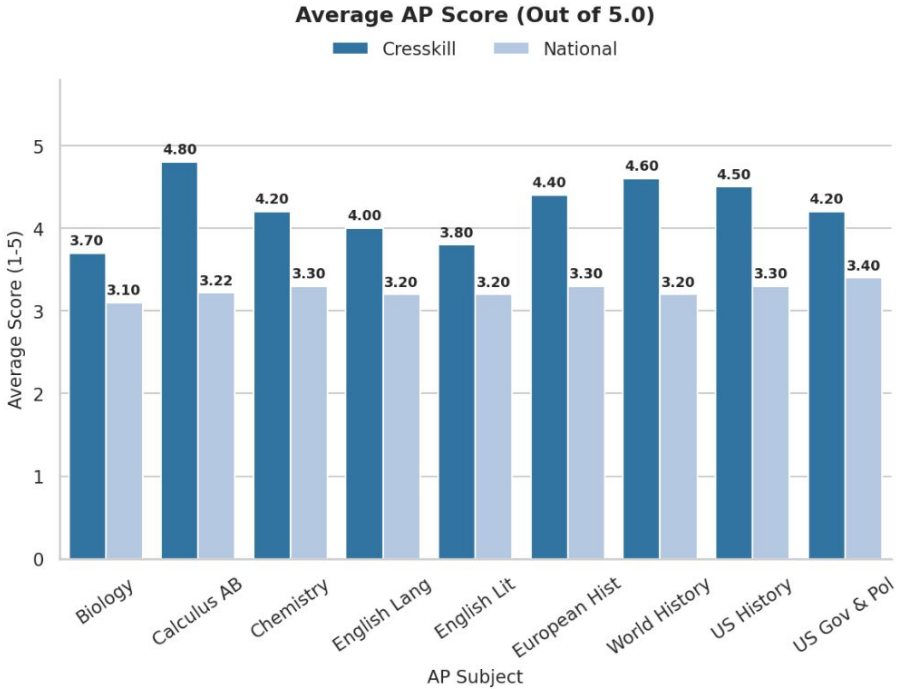
50+ Clubs and 18 Athletic Teams

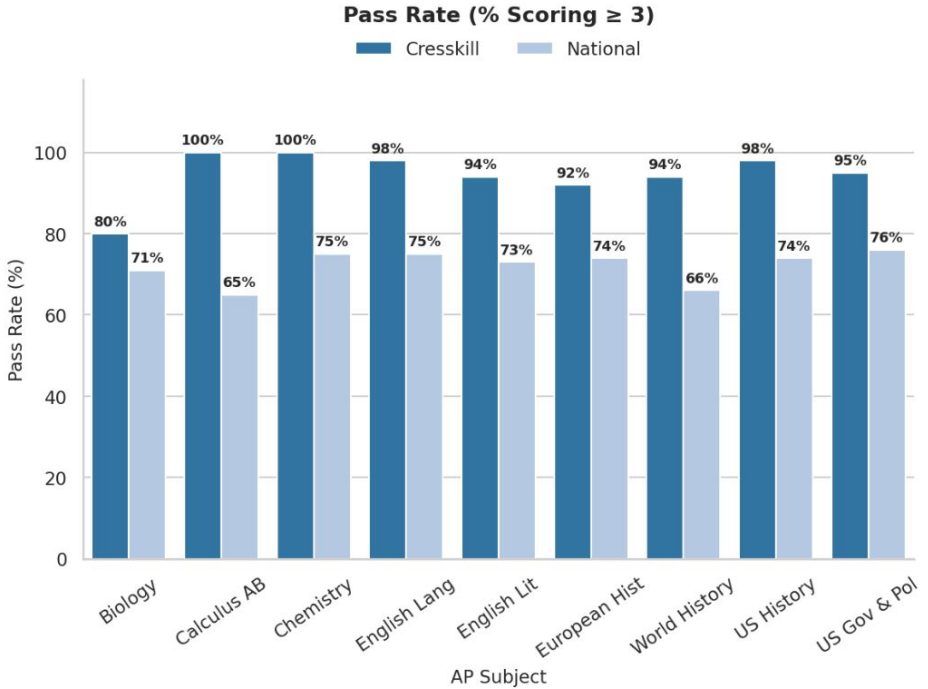
CHS fosters leadership and passion through a wide variety of extracurricular activities.

Senior Internship & Volunteer Program

Seniors connect academics to real-world experience to prepare for future careers.

Cresskill High School Outperforms National AP Benchmarks Across All Subjects

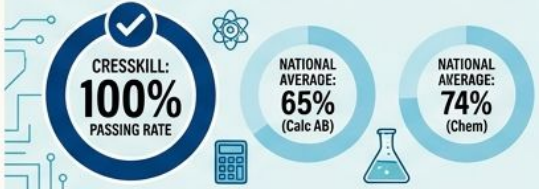




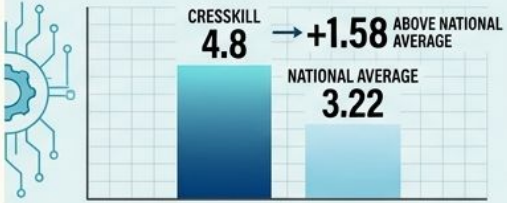
ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE: CRESSKILL HIGH SCHOOL OUTPERFORMS NATIONAL AP BENCHMARKS

STEM PERFORMANCE (Science & Math)

PERFECT PASSING RATES IN CALCULUS AND CHEMISTRY



4.8 AVERAGE SCORE IN CALCULUS AB

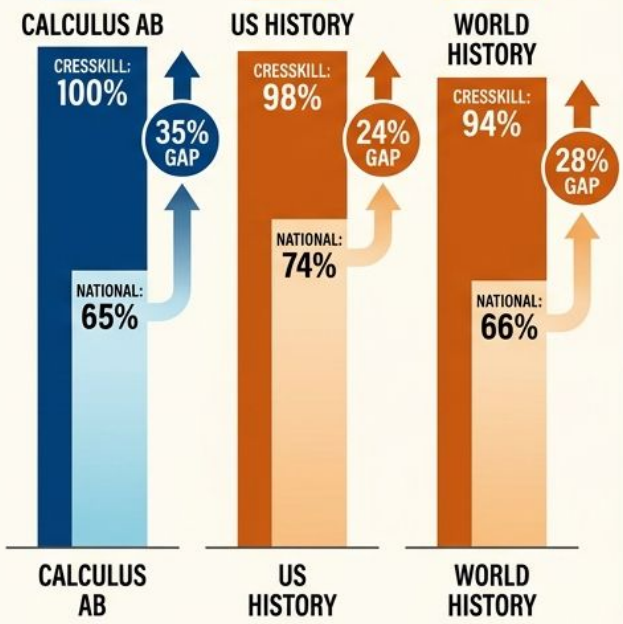


BIOLOGY PERFORMANCE LEADS THE NATION



MOST DRAMATIC PERFORMANCE GAPS

(Passing Rate ≥ 3)

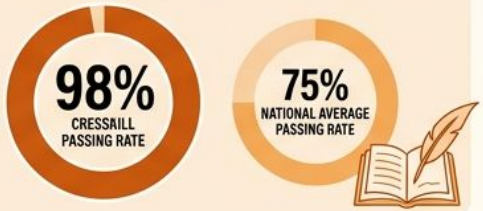


HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

DOMINANCE IN HISTORY AND GOVERNMENT



98% PASSING RATE IN ENGLISH LANGUAGE



HIGH-LEVEL MASTERY IN EUROPEAN HISTORY



Gemini Notebook

Cresskill Middle School/High School Parent Organizations

Home & School Association

Korean Parents Association

Athletic Boosters

Music Boosters

Cresskill Education Foundation

Cresskill Unidos

Project Graduation

CHS Corrective Action Plan (CAP) for Addressing Chronic Absenteeism

Presented by:
John Massaro- Principal
Thiana Vázquez- Assistant Principal
David Sposato- Assistant Principal for Student Support Services

August 31st, 2026

What is Chronic Absenteeism?

If a student's absentee rate is equal to or greater than 10%, the student shall be identified as **chronically absent**.

Chronic absenteeism is a primary cause of low academic achievement
Attending school every day increases chances of success in school and in life.

NJ Statute Annotated Title 18A:38-25 Every parent/guardian or other person having custody or control of a child between the ages of 6 and 16 years shall cause such child to regularly attend the public schools of the district.

Cresskill School District Policy & Regulation 5200 "Attendance"

How Chronic Absenteeism is calculated in NJ?

Student Absentee Rate = Number of Days Absent ÷ Number of Days Present + Number of Days Absent

If this number is equal to or greater than 10%, the student is **Chronically Absent*

School Chronic Absenteeism Rate = Number of chronically absent students ÷ Number of students enrolled

State Excused Absences

There is a difference between State excused and locally excused

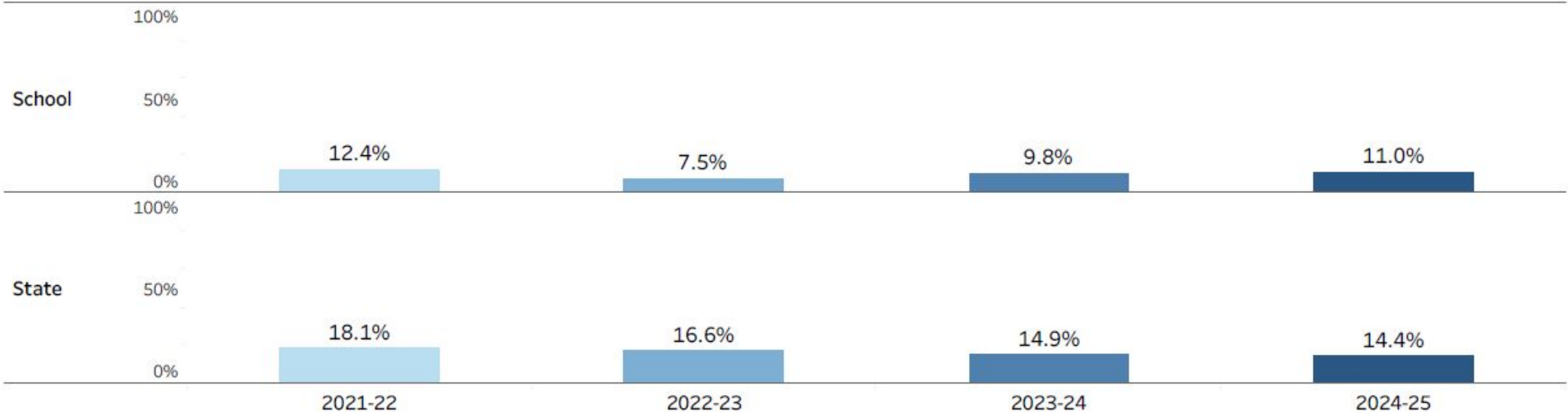
State Excused: (not counted as an absence for the purpose of chronic absenteeism)

- Religious observance NJDOE 2026-2027 approved list
- College visit(s), up to 3 days per school year for students in grades 11 and 12
- “Take Our Children to Work Day” (4/22/27)
- Participation in observance of Veterans Day
- Participation in district board of election membership activities
- Closure of a busing district that prevents a student from having transportation to the receiving school
- Participation in one “civic event” for students in grades 6-12 - can only be applied to an event sponsored by a government entity, a community-based organization, or a nonprofit. The civic event is required to incorporate an element of service learning and address a public issue or concern

District Data

Chronic Absenteeism Rate Trends

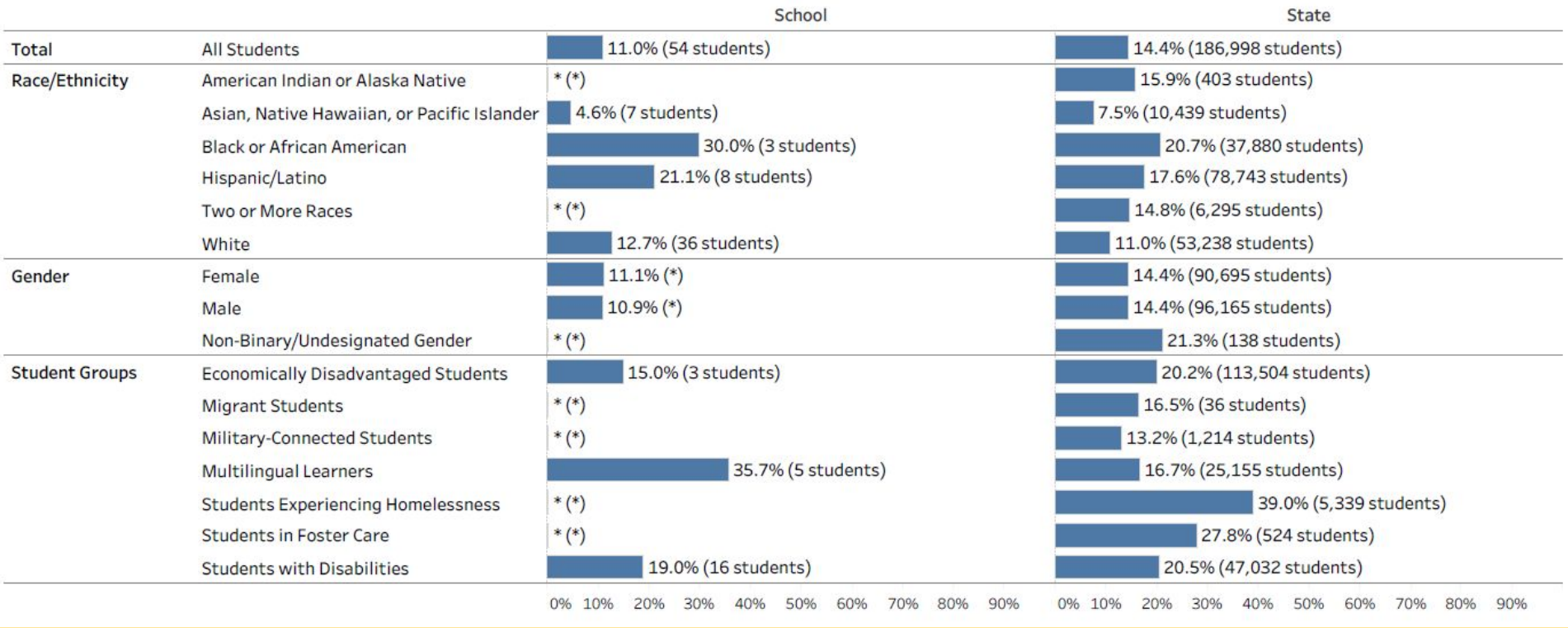
This graph shows K-12 chronic absenteeism rate for the last 4 years. Use the student group filter to view rates for other student groups, or use the Level filter to see statewide rate comparisons.



District Data

Chronic Absenteeism by Student Group

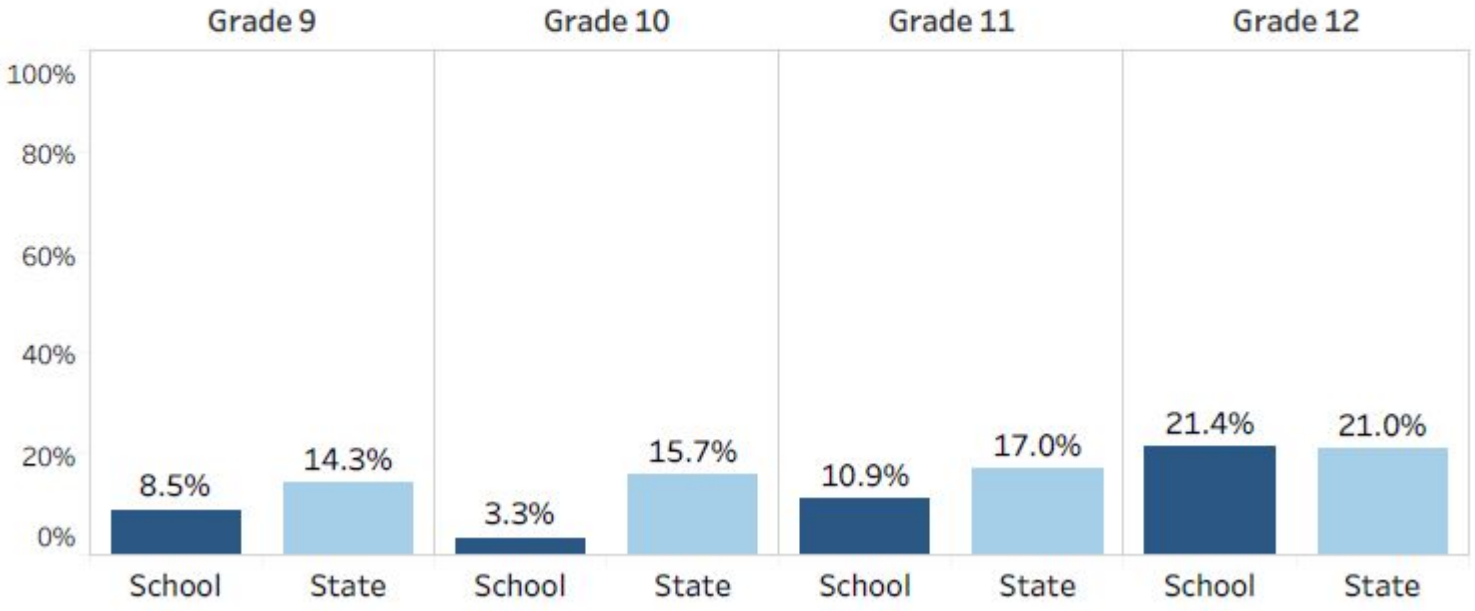
This graph shows the number and percentage of students in grades K-12 who were chronically absent during the school year.



District Data

Chronic Absenteeism by Grade

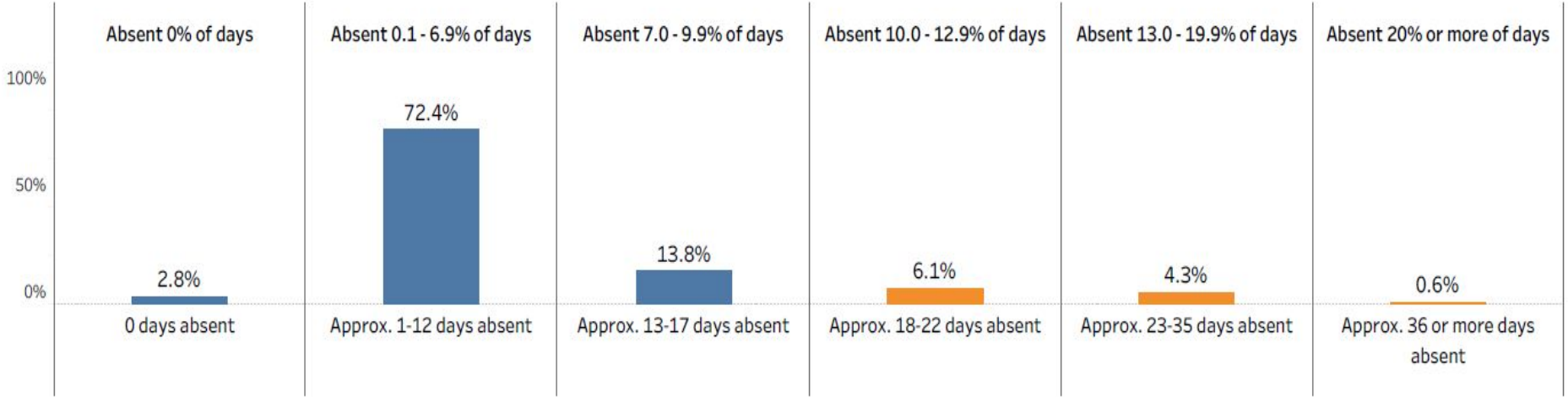
This graph shows the number and percentage of students in grades K-12 who were chronically absent during the school year, with a state comparison.



District Data

Percentage of Days Absent

This graph shows the percentage of K-12 students that fall into each bucket of days absent during the school year. The description below each bar gives the approximate range of days absent for each bucket for a student who was enrolled for the full school year (180 days). The last three bars (10-12.9%, 13-19.9%, and 20% or more) represent students who were chronically absent.



How is the Data Used?

Included in NJ's ESSA Accountability system as an indicator of school quality

District Chronic Absenteeism rates are used for School Quality Ratings in the NJQSAC (Quality Single Accountability Continuum) review

Chronic Absenteeism rates reported at the district, school, and student group level in the Annual School Performance Reports

The NJDOE is required to report attendance data to the US Department of Education

Corrective Action Plan Development

New Jersey Statute: Pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:38-25.1, in the event that 10 percent or more of the students enrolled in a public school are chronically absent, the school shall develop a corrective action plan to improve absenteeism rates. The corrective action plan shall include, but need not be limited to, the following:

- Identifying problems and barriers to school attendance
- Developing recommendations to address the problems and barriers to school attendance that have been identified
- Outlining communication strategies to educate and inform parents on the importance of school attendance
- Establishing protocols on informing and engaging parents when a child begins to show a pattern of absences
- Reviewing school policies to ensure that they support improved school attendance.

Steps the District will take

- Class presentations and “Attendance Matters” communication theme with positive reinforcements
- Parent Presentation for Chronic Absenteeism C.A.P. at CHS Back-to-School Night
- Parent Genesis Acknowledgement Form for Chronic Absenteeism C.A.P.
- Parent Survey- To be administered late September/early October
- Genesis-generated attendance letters
- Monthly Staff Attendance Committee meetings (Administration, Guidance Dept., CST)
    - Development of individualized student attendance action plans
    - Referral to Intervention & Referral Services (I&RS)
    - Loss of daily privileges