

Counselor Institute In-Person Workshop: Attendance Initiatives

The Power of Presence: Understanding Louisiana's attendance initiative and the support school counselors provide to students and families.

1. Role Clarity

Instructions: Check off the attendance responsibilities you currently own in your role as a counselor

Current Responsibilities	Reflection
☐ Analyzing data to identify students in need of support ☐ Identifying factors influencing attendance ☐ Developing attendance intervention strategies ☐ Engaging families and communities ☐ Establishing school attendance goals and expectations ☐ Other: _____	Where do I need more clarity in my role?

2. Attendance Data Review

Instructions: Fill in the key metrics for your school here, then write out your initial reactions to the data.

Metric	My school	2025-26 LDOE Target	Where to find (See detailed instructions in the appendix)
Chronic absenteeism rate	__%	22%	1. On the School System Attributes page, click on “Student Attendance Data” and find “2024-2025 Chronic Absenteeism Rate Overall & by Subgroup” 2. Open the Excel file and go to the “Site” tab at the bottom. Scroll or search to find your school and look for the “Overall” category
Truancy percentage	__%	39%	1. On the School System Attributes page, click on “Truancy Data” and find “2024-2025 State District School Student Truancy Rates” 2. Open the Excel file and go to the “Site” tab at the bottom. Scroll or search to find your school

Quick insight: How do my school's attendance metrics compare to the state targets?
(e.g., "My school is on track for truancy percentage, but we still have a high chronic absenteeism rate")

3. Root Cause Reflection

Instructions: Analyze your school's attendance data further by either:

- Comparing the chronic absenteeism rate for different subgroups using the file you downloaded, or
- Downloading attendance files from previous years and comparing them to the most recent year
- Review the barrier and intervention information found on pp. 28-30 of the [Power of Presence guidance document](#) as a resource for the root cause and solution portion of this reflection.

Then, fill out the reflections below.

Reflection	
What do you see in the data? What does the data suggest? What trends are present: - in grade bands? - among particular student groups? (e.g., "Students in the older grades at my school have higher rates of chronic absenteeism" or "My school's truancy rate hasn't gone down very much over the past few years")	What could be the root cause(s) of the attendance concerns? What solutions/interventions could address specific attendance barriers? (e.g., Barrier: Students express a lack of connectedness to school. Possible intervention: Help students identify a club or sport to join and support their participation.)

4. Attendance Goal Setting

Instructions: Create a SMART goal to support one of your students or student groups in improving their attendance.

Example SMART goal: “I will work with [student/student groups] to maintain at least a 91% attendance rate for the rest of the semester, and monitor progress through a weekly attendance review with their homeroom teacher.”

Specific goal:	
How will you Measure your goal?	
Is the goal Actionable and Realistic ?	
What is the Time frame for the goal?	

5. Strategy Selection

Instructions: Choose 1-2 strategies you will implement in your school around attendance / your SMART goal.

- ☐ Create individualized student attendance plans (ISAPs)
- ☐ Engage with the families of students with high absences
- ☐ Contribute to schoolwide attendance incentives and recognition programs
- ☐ Monitor and make decisions based on attendance data
- ☐ Consider local resources that can be leveraged to address data-informed attendance needs
- ☐ Other (please specify):

6. Name the Next Steps

Instructions: Complete the following prompts to determine how you will implement the strategy or strategies you selected above.

What additional information may need to be gathered?	
Who may I need to partner with?	
How/when we will meet?	
How will we define success?	

7. Action Step Commitment

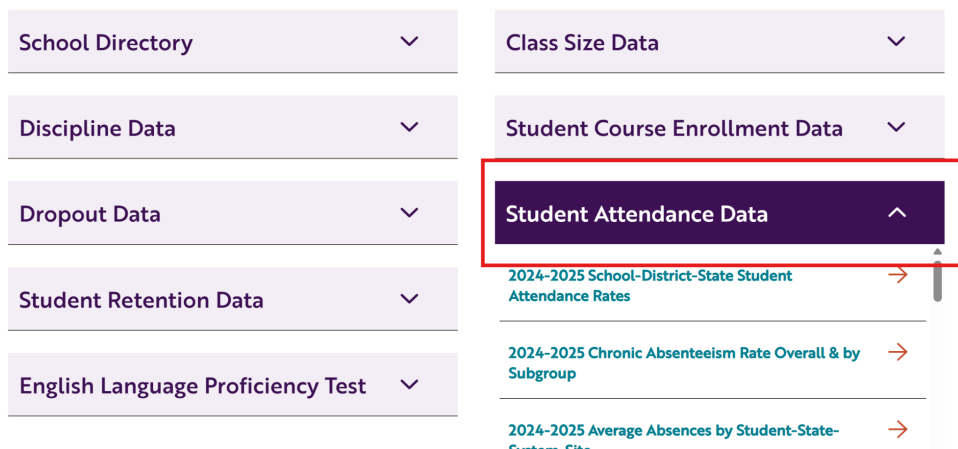
One step I will take in the next 2 weeks is:

Appendix

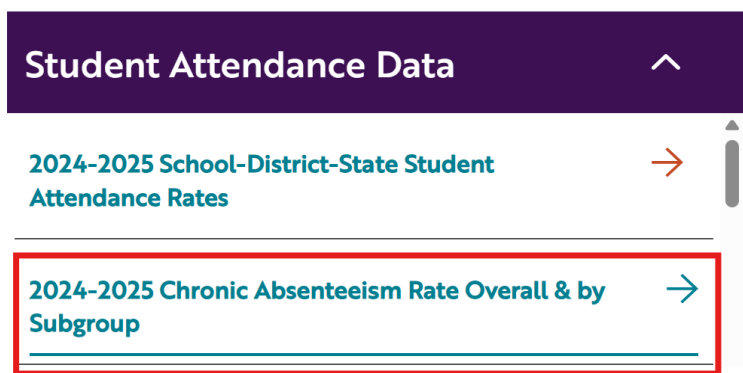
How to access your school's attendance data:

Chronic Absenteeism Rate

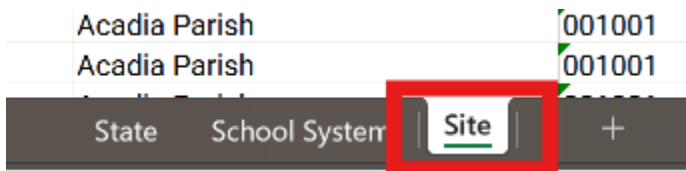
1. Go to the [School System Attributes](#) page on the LDOE website.
2. Scroll down and click on “Student Attendance Data”



3. Under Student Attendance Data, click the second option: “2024-2025 Chronic Absenteeism Rate Overall & by Subgroup.” This should download an Excel file.



4. Open the Excel file and go to the “Site” tab at the bottom.



5. Find your school under “Site Name” in column D of the sheet. To do this, you can scroll down until you find your Parish, then your school, or use Ctrl+F (Cmd+F on Mac) to search the document for your school's name.

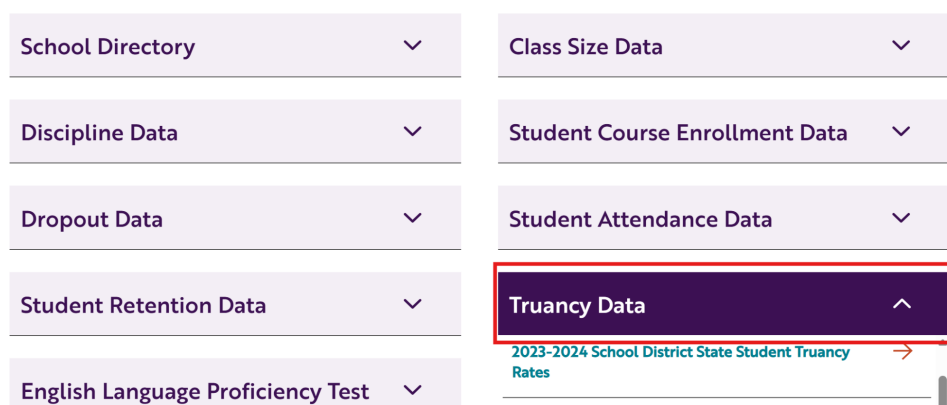
- Once you find your school, look at the first row with your school's name to see the overall chronic absenteeism rate. It should say "Overall" in column E, and the chronic absenteeism rate is in column G.

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G
149	001	Acadia Parish	001007	Crowley High School	Homeless Status	Non Homeless	45.6%
150	001	Acadia Parish	001007	Crowley High School	Migrant Status	Migrant	0.0%
151	001	Acadia Parish	001007	Crowley High School	Migrant Status	Non Migrant	46.1%
152	001	Acadia Parish	001008	Crowley Middle School	Overall	Total	48.4%
153	001	Acadia Parish	001008	Crowley Middle School	Grades 6-8	Total	49.4%
154	001	Acadia Parish	001008	Crowley Middle School	Race/Ethnicity	Native American	100.0%
155	001	Acadia Parish	001008	Crowley Middle School	Race/Ethnicity	Black	46.2%
156	001	Acadia Parish	001008	Crowley Middle School	Race/Ethnicity	Hispanic	40.0%

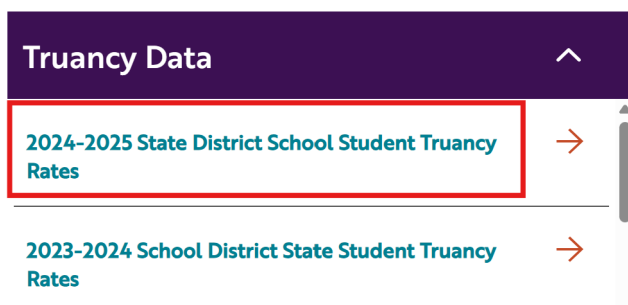
- You can also see the chronic absenteeism rates for student subgroups at your school in the rows below. Look in columns E and F to see which subgroups the chronic absenteeism rate corresponds to.

Truancy Rate

- Go to the [School System Attributes](#) page on the LDOE website.
- Scroll down and click on "Truancy Data"



- Click on "2024-2025 State District School Student Truancy Rates." This should download an Excel file.



- Open the Excel file and go to the "Site" tab at the bottom.

Acadia Parish	001001		
Acadia Parish	001001		
State	School System	Site	+

- Find your school under “Site Name” in column D of the sheet. To do this, you can scroll down until you find your Parish and then your school, or use Ctrl+F (Cmd+F on Mac) to search the document for your school’s name.
- In your school’s row, you can see the school’s truancy rate in column F.

D	E	F
Children Point Middle School	137	48.87%
Crowley High School	347	62.44%
Crowley Middle School	243	54.61%