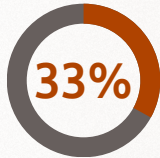


Spotlight on SCHOOL ATTENDANCE SAN JUAN COUNTY



Attendance Data



One in three students was chronically absent during the 2023-24 school year

“Chronic absenteeism” refers to missing 10% or more days of school, which adds up to missing 2 days per month. Across San Juan County, during the 2023-24 school year, 1 out of 3 (33%) students were chronically absent.

Why is attendance important? There is a clear link between school attendance and success in school. Regular and consistent attendance is one of the strongest predictors of school success, including reading skills, grades, and graduating.



What Students Tell Us



Students are more likely to attend school when they see a connection between attendance, grades and their goals for the future.

*What supports students wanting to go to school? On surveys, teens tell us that learning “skills for future employment” is the most important, with 58% ranking this as “extremely important.” In addition to making the connection between attendance and success, **many students find these things help make school more enjoyable and engaging:***

- Connecting with friends and classmates for support and belonging
- Getting involved in activities such as clubs and sports
- Talking with teachers, parents or other trusted adults for support and guidance if they are feeling overwhelmed or struggling with school



Parents' Influence



Active parental involvement in a child's education can significantly impact attendance.

The influence that parents and guardians have is often stronger than that of teachers, friends and media on a child's success in school.

Parents make a difference by:

- Making school and study a priority
- Having consistent home routines that support school attendance
- Staying in touch with the school and attending school events
- Creating a supportive, balanced home and family life
- Addressing related issues, such as struggles with classwork or social challenges, and working with the school to find solutions



How Schools Help



Schools support attendance with a welcoming atmosphere where students feel safe, respected and connected.

Student surveys show that school safety and climate are strongly linked to chronic absenteeism, particularly for middle and elementary school students. Supportive relationships and self-efficacy are also strongly correlated with attendance, especially among middle and high school students. In addition to creating a welcoming, safe environment, **what strategies do schools use to increase attendance?**

- Building strong relationships with students and families
- Providing support systems for students' physical and mental health
- Embedding life-skills and resilience modules in core curricula
- Providing bullying prevention programs, and offering mentoring and tutoring programs for social and academic support

San Juan County Partnership is working with schools, students and families to help improve attendance across the county. For contact information, visit sjcpartnership.org.