



Attendance Solutions Network.

Learning Community

2025-2026 SY

September 17, 2025



Framing & Purpose: Learning Community Goals & Norms

- **Peer-to-Peer Learning Community Goals:**
 - Encourage collaboration among attendees
 - Share collective wisdom
 - Elevate good strategies at work
- **Group Norms of Interaction:**
 - What's said here, stays here
 - What's learned here, leaves here
 - Connect – lean on this network, grow the coalition, and collaborate

Framing & Purpose: Learning Community Approach



**Showcasing
innovative or
promising
practices**



**Creating
space for
collaboration**



**Informing
practice**



**Identifying
needs and
creating
resources to
benefit the field**



**PARTNERSHIP FOR
Student Success**

Today's Agenda

- Welcome & Introductions
- Opening Remarks, Dr. Balfanz
- Good Strategies at Work: Spotlight on Washoe County Public Schools (NV), Presented by Dr. J.T. Stark
- Q&A
- Breakout Groups 1
- Breakout Groups 2 (depart from groups)



Stay Engaged!

Please check out our landing page:

<https://www.partnershipstudentsuccess.org/attendance-solutions-network/>

The next learning community will be on Wednesday, December 3rd, 3:00-4:30 pm EST/12:00-1:30 pm PST. [Register here.](#)

[Opt-in to our Directory](#) and connect with others outside of our meetings

Join PSS next Monday, September 22nd at 3pm ET for our Research to Practice Webinar Series' 3rd session, "Empowering Youth to Help Solve Pressing Challenges." [Register here.](#)



- Dr. Robert Balfanz, Director
Everyone Graduates
Center, School of
Education, Johns Hopkins
University (JHU)

Meeting the Chronic Absenteeism Challenge: What Do We Know?



Scale & Intensity Of Attendance Challenge

REQUIRES A SYSTEMATIC APPROACH

1

**Improvement
is Possible.**

2

**Know Your
Challenge.**

3

**Organize Your
Response.**

4

**Align Your
Resources.**

Know Your Challenge

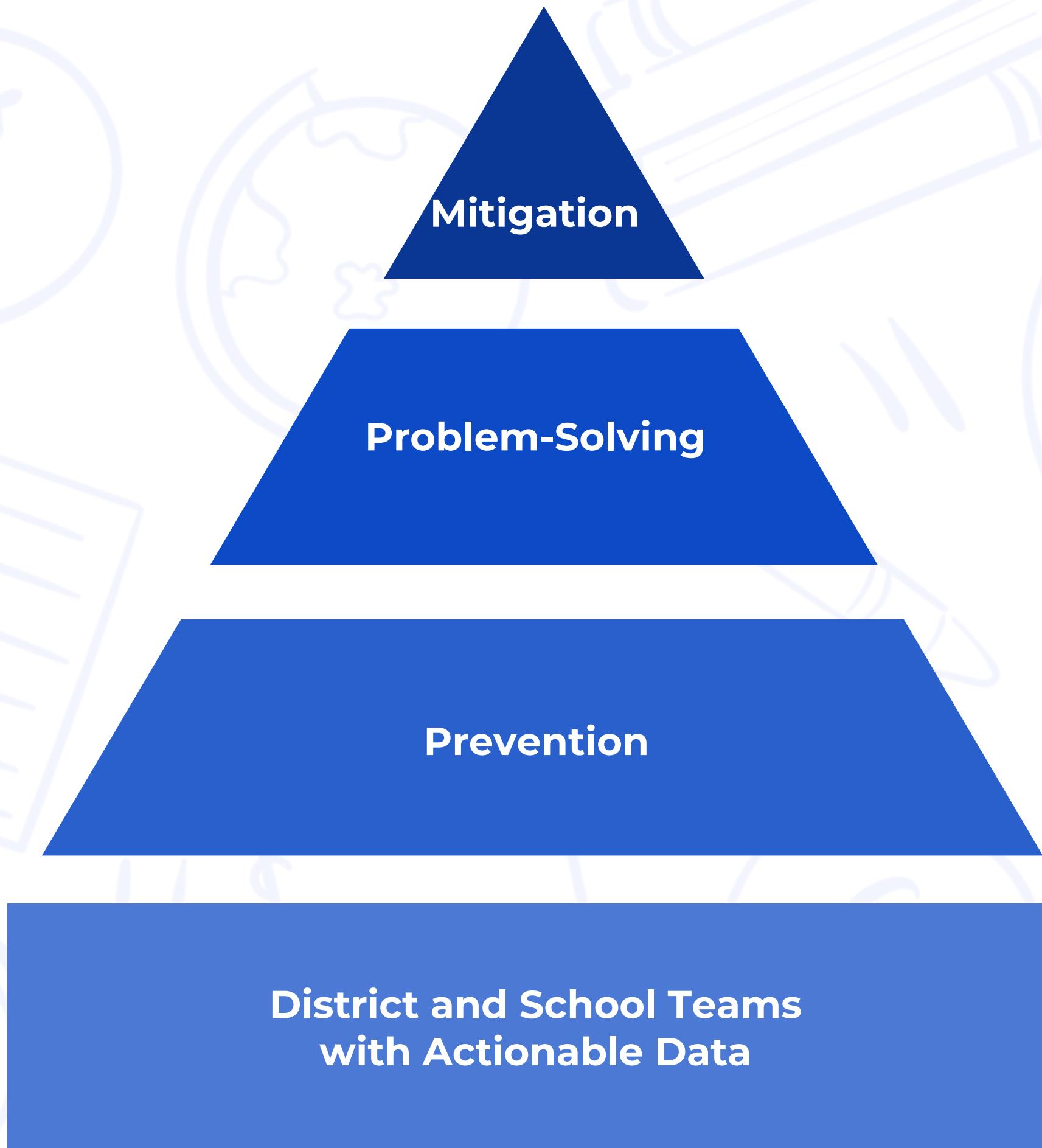
IT CAN VARY BY TIME, PLACE & GRADE LEVEL

Barriers

Aversion

Disengagement

Misconceptions



ORGANIZE YOUR RESPONSE

*What is your district's
systematic approach?*

Prevention:

POSITIVE CONDITIONS FOR LEARNING

Effective Practices:

- Increase school connectedness.
- Family engagement.
- Messaging campaigns. (E.g. “School is a good place to be.”)
- Nudge letters.

District/School Actions:

- Take supportive—not punitive—response to absenteeism.
- Improve school climate, access to extra-curriculars, show how schooling connects to locally meaningful outcomes and opportunities.
- Anti-bullying efforts. (In-person and social media.)



Problem-Solving:

ADDRESSING ROOT CAUSE

Effective Practices:

- Engaging students and families in identifying root cause and solutions.
- Early warning, MTSS, and student success systems.
- Success coaches and mentors.

District/School Actions:

- Form strategic partnerships to provide student supports at scale required. (E.g. mentors, tutors, wraparound supports, etc.)
- Create or expand community schools.
- Partners with mayor to create inter-agency task force to bring health, transportation, housing, workforce agencies, etc. assets to bear.



Mitigation:

RECOVERING LEARNING & SOCIAL CONNECTION

EFFECTIVE PRACTICES:

- High-dosage tutoring.
- Highly engaging summer learning.
- Meaningful high school credit recovery opportunities.
- Peer mentoring to support social re-integration.
- Success coaches or mentors.

DISTRICT/SCHOOL ACTIONS:

- Not having policies which prevent recovery. (E.g. cannot make up work if absence is unexcused, must fail a class if missed too many days.)



Teams with Data:

SCHOOL & DISTRICT ATTENDANCE TEAMS

- School teams should include everyone with key perspective on student attendance.
- District teams should include all offices that can have impact on attendance.
- Need consistent regularly scheduled time to work together, bi-weekly ideal, protocols to focus work, leadership endorsement & support.
- Use data to shape and refine actions.

ACTIONABLE ATTENDANCE DATA

- Real time as possible—weekly at school level, monthly at district.
- Disaggregated by sub-groups and grade.
- Shows trends over time, from start of year and compared to prior years.
- Track and monitors effectiveness of interventions.

Two Things to Consider

- An Attendance Team with 1 to 2 people cannot address the attendance challenges of 75 or more chronically absent students
- Existing Student Support Teams are often siloed and not designed for scale and scope of student needs in pandemic impacted times



Good Strategies at Work



PARTNERSHIP FOR
Student Success

Chronic Absenteeism in WCSD

Progress Monitoring Education’s Most Critical Measure

Presented by:

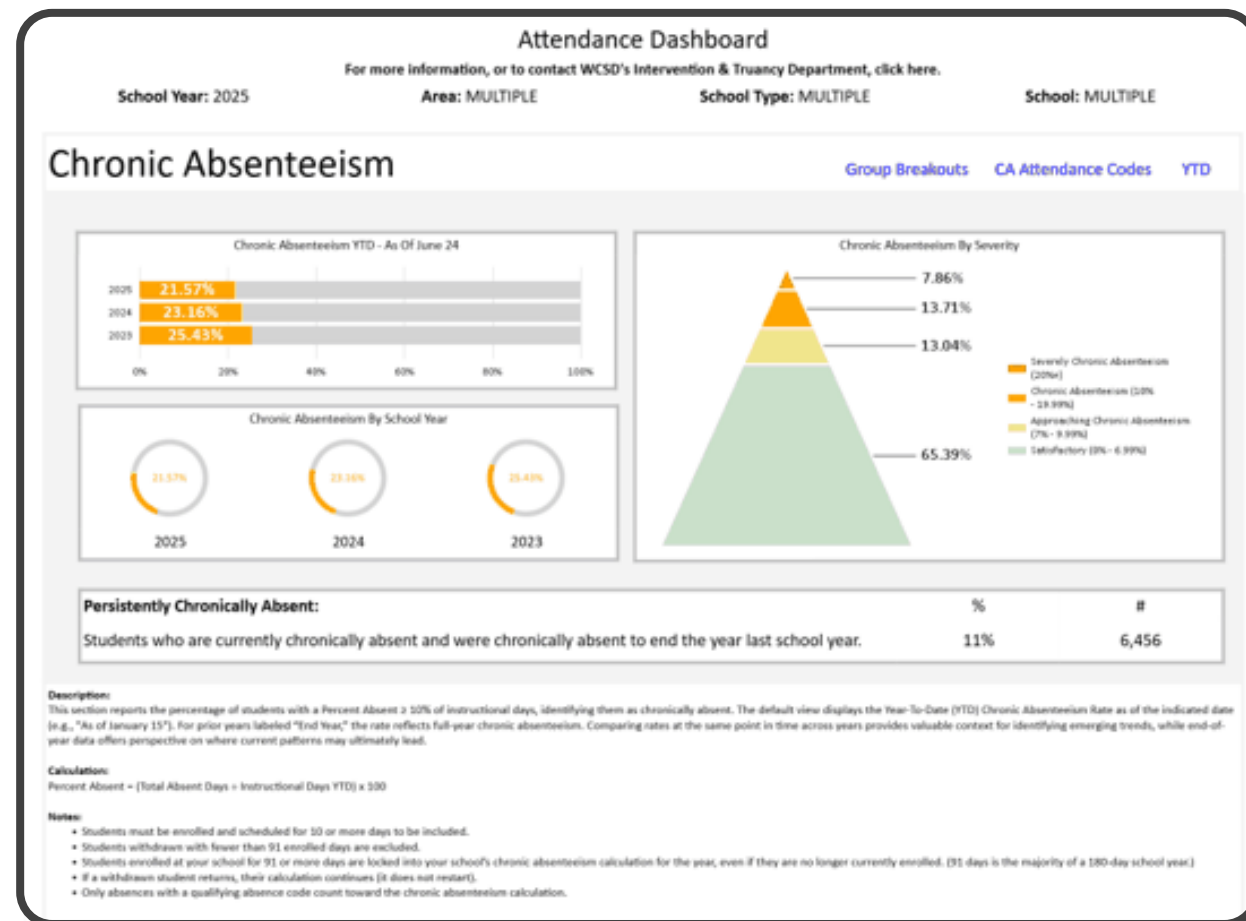


Dr. JT Stark
Washoe County School District
Data Analytics Coordinator

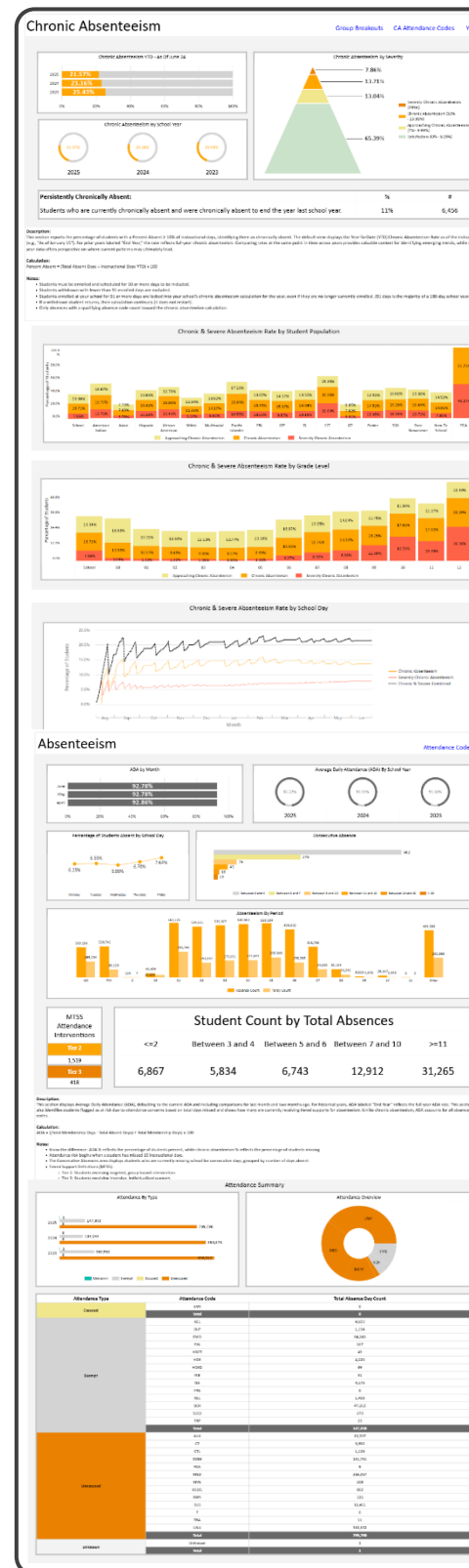
Strategic Data Project Fellow



Considering All Aspects of Absenteeism Data



EVERY Data Point Drills to Student-Level Information



Chronic Absenteeism

CA by Grade Level & Student Populations

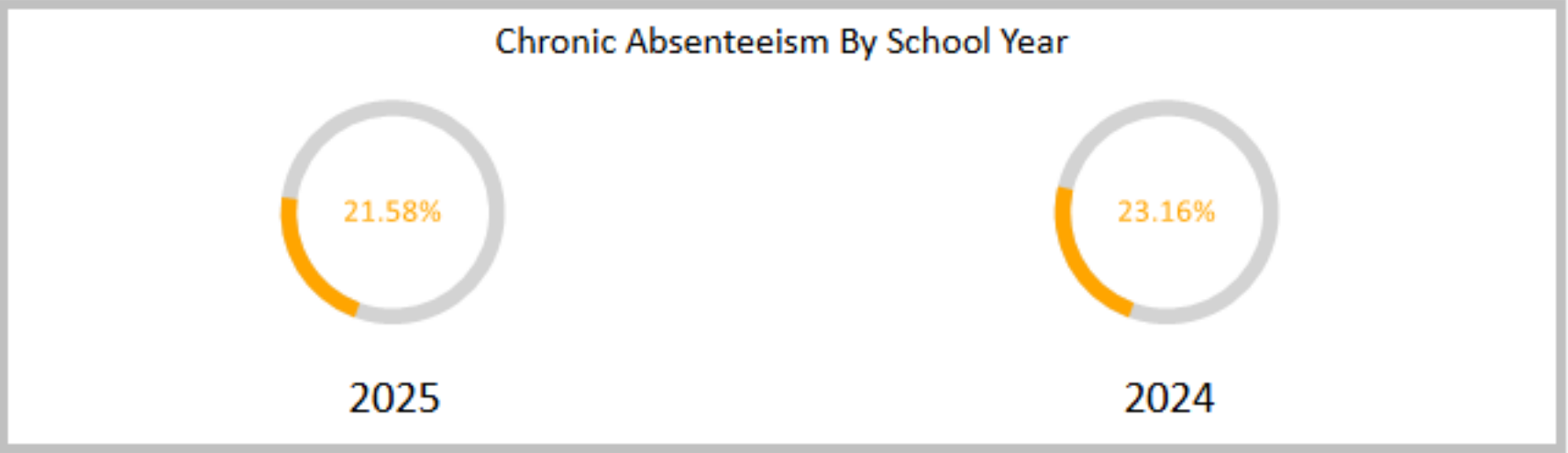
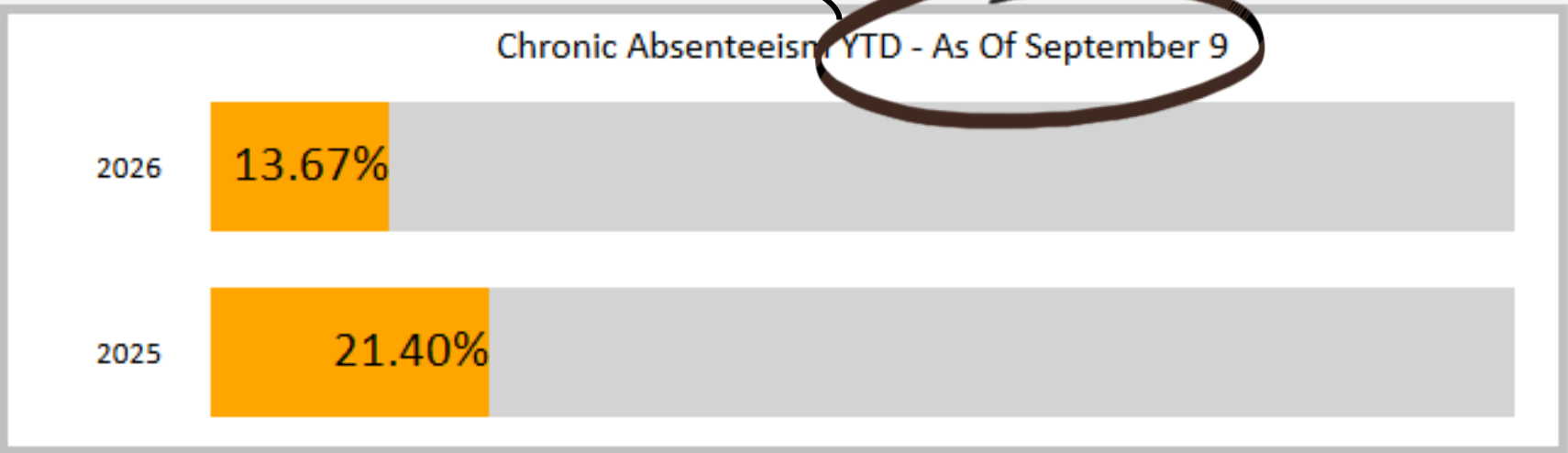
ALL Absenteeism

Reasons for Absences

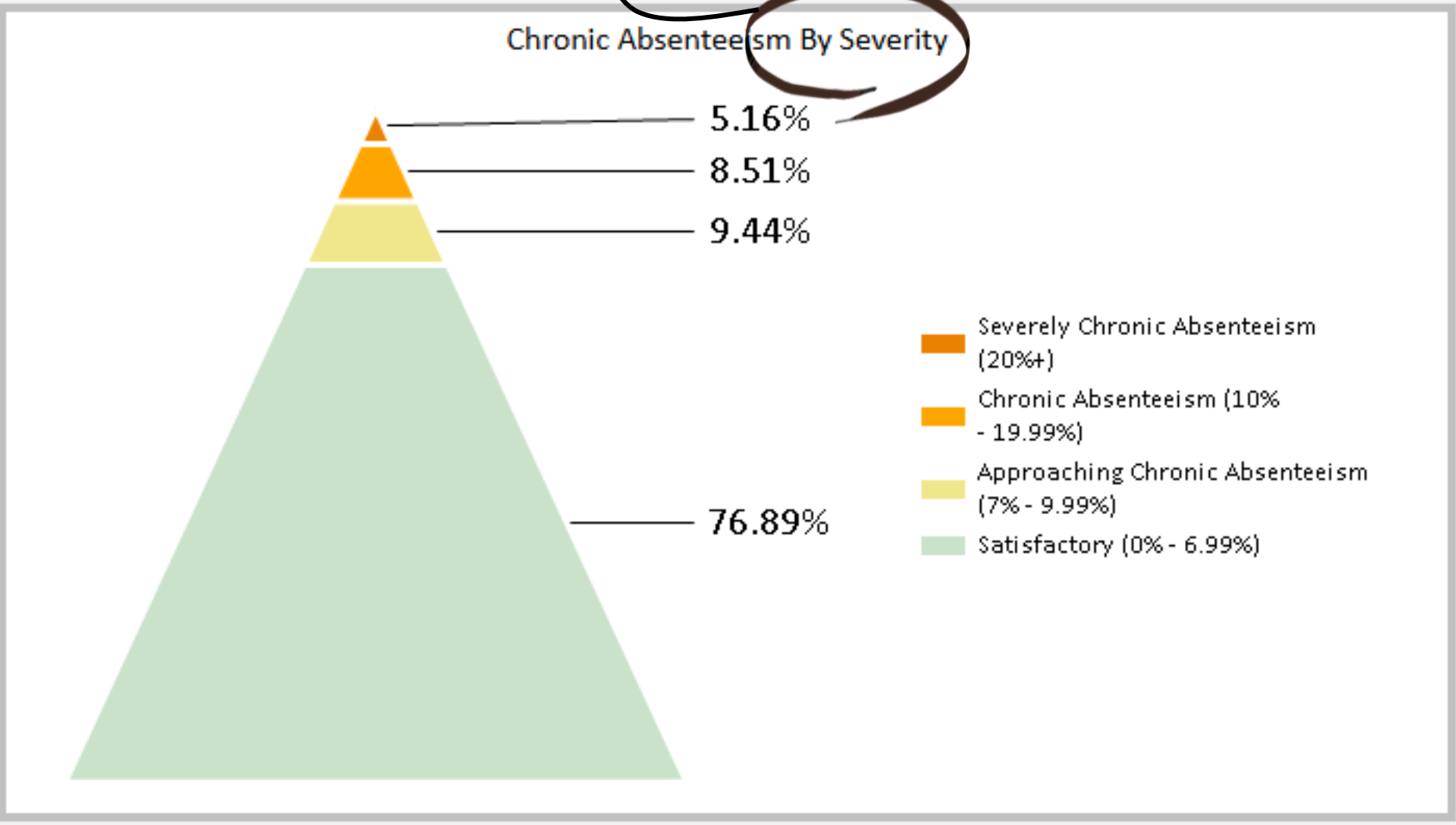


Start with Chronic Absenteeism

Year-to-Date Comparisons



Breakout by Severity



Persistently Chronically Absent:

Students who are currently chronically absent and were chronically absent to end the year last school year.

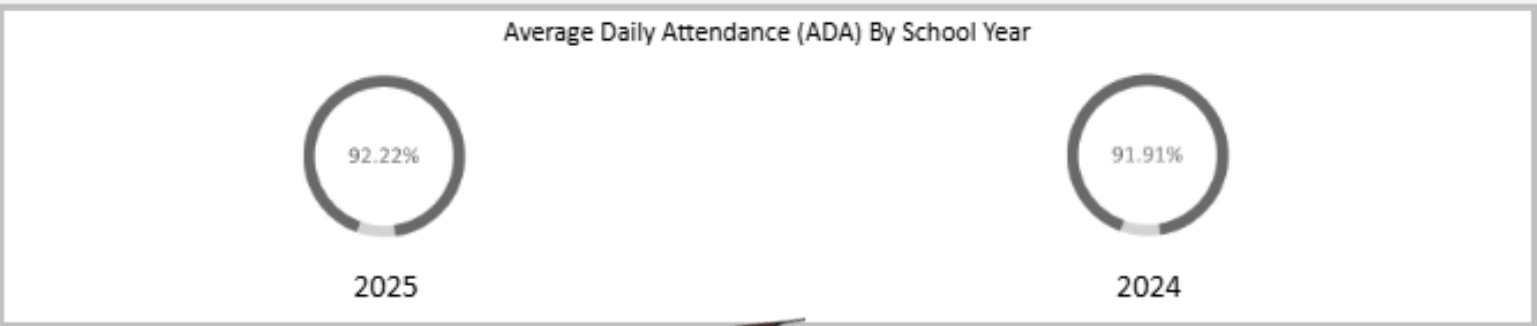
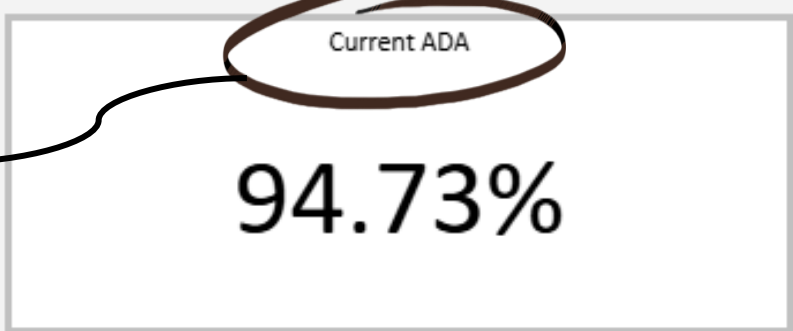
%	#
7%	3,913

Habitually Missing School

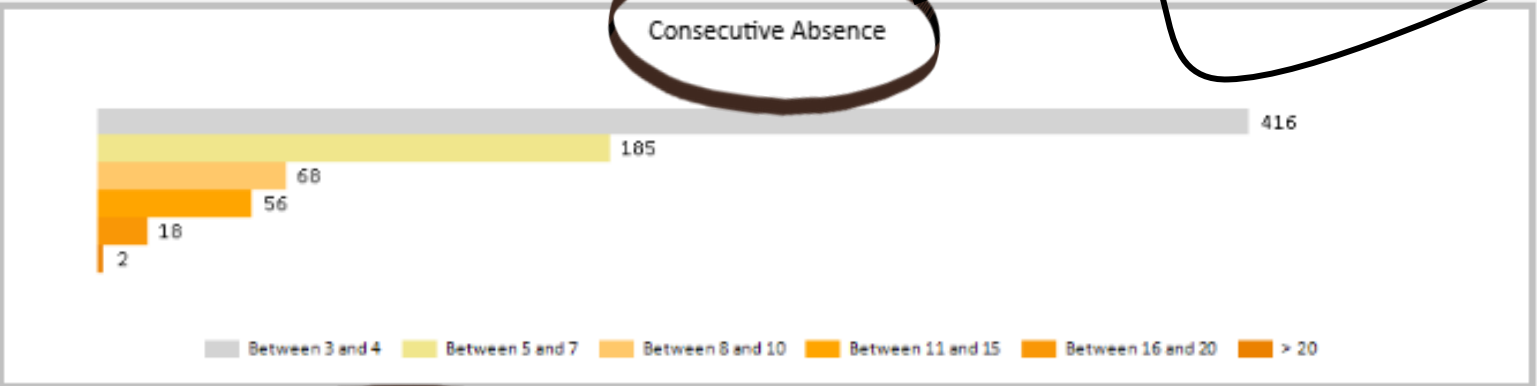
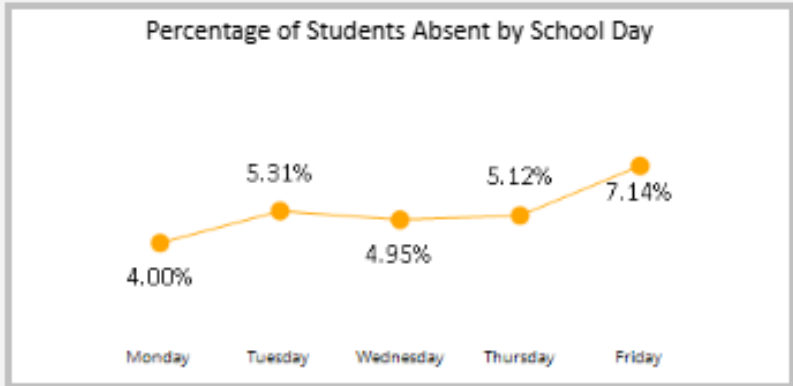


Inform with All Absenteeism

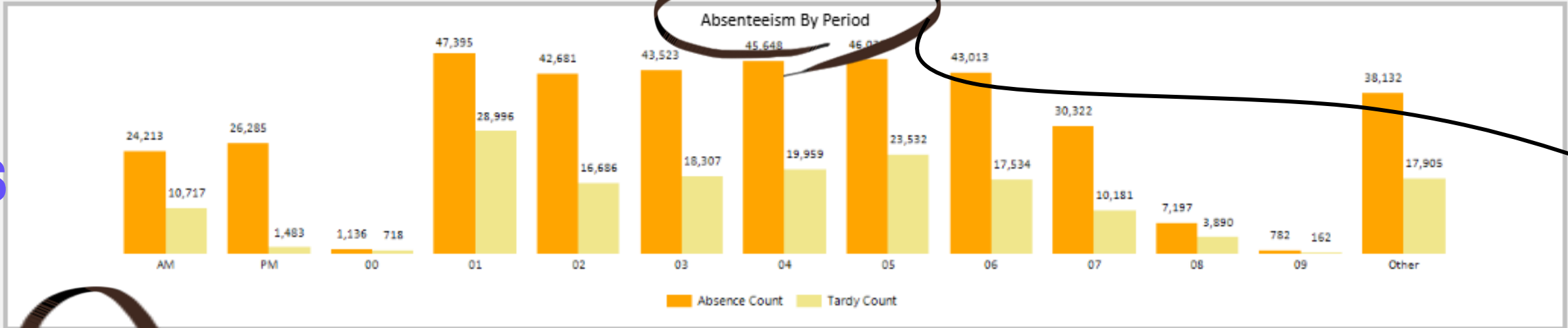
Average
Daily
Attendance
(ADA)



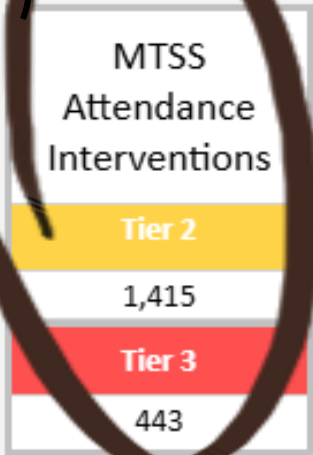
Live
Consecutive
Absences



Formal MTSS
Glance



Strategize
by Class
Period



Student Count by Total Absences						
0	1-4	5-8	9-12	13-16	17-20	21+
33,438	24,280	2,034	500	211	78	6



Getting the Most Out of Our Absenteeism Data



Chronic Absenteeism

CA by Grade Level & Student Populations

ALL Absenteeism

Reasons for Absences

How are we going to inform interventions this year?

Student-Level YTD Lookup Report

Chronic as of 9/1/2025		Chronic as of 9/16/2025		DIFFERENCE		Intervention	
CA Days	CA %	CA Days	CA %	CA Days	CA %	Current Attendance Intervention Start Date	Current Attendance Intervention
4	26.7%	4	15.38%	0	-11.32%	9/1/2025	Check-in and Connect
3	20.0%	3	11.54%	0	-8.46%		
6	40.0%	8	30.77%	2	-9.23%	8/20/2025	Attendance Plan
2	13.33%	3	11.54%	1	-1.79%	9/10/2025	Attendance Monitor
2	13.33%	2	7.69%	0	-5.64%		
5	33.33%	5	19.23%	0	-14.1%		
4	26.7%	8	30.77%	4	+4.07%		
3	20.0%	3	11.54%	0	-8.46%	9/1/2025	Check-in and Connect



Game Changer: Student-Level YTD Lookup

Chronic as of 9/1/2025		Chronic as of 9/16/2025		DIFFERENCE		Intervention	
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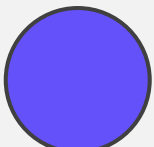
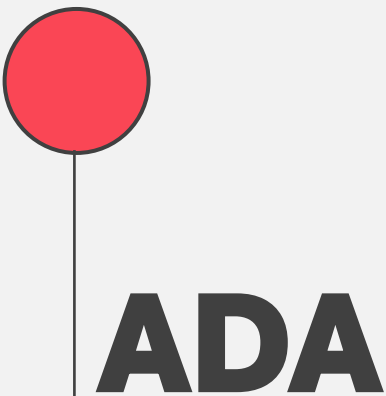
Continuously Improving Attendance Monitoring in WCSD

Data Warehouse
Stood Up

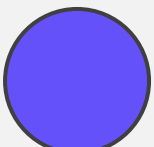
Adopted Chronic
Absenteeism

Absenteeism Dashboard
Launched

Absenteeism Dashboard 2.0
Launched w/ YTD



Early Warning
System



All Student-Level
Drill Throughs

Training and Refinement



MTSS
Intervention Bank

Live
intervention tracking

Live
intervention tracking

2012.....2016

2017

2018

2019

2020

2021

2022

2023

2024

2025

2026

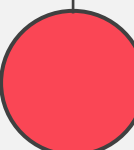
2027

Student
Profiles

Chronic is
now a
special
population

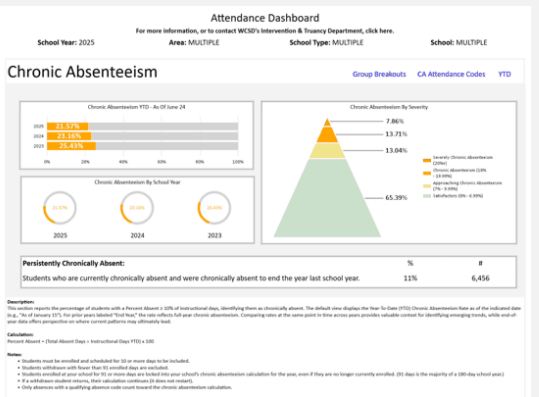
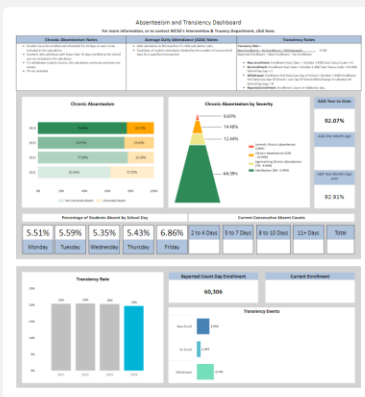


Mass Adoption
of Absenteeism
Dashboard



Transformation
Incoming

Table with 10 columns: School Name, Attendance Rate, Absenteeism Rate, Chronic Absenteeism Rate, etc.

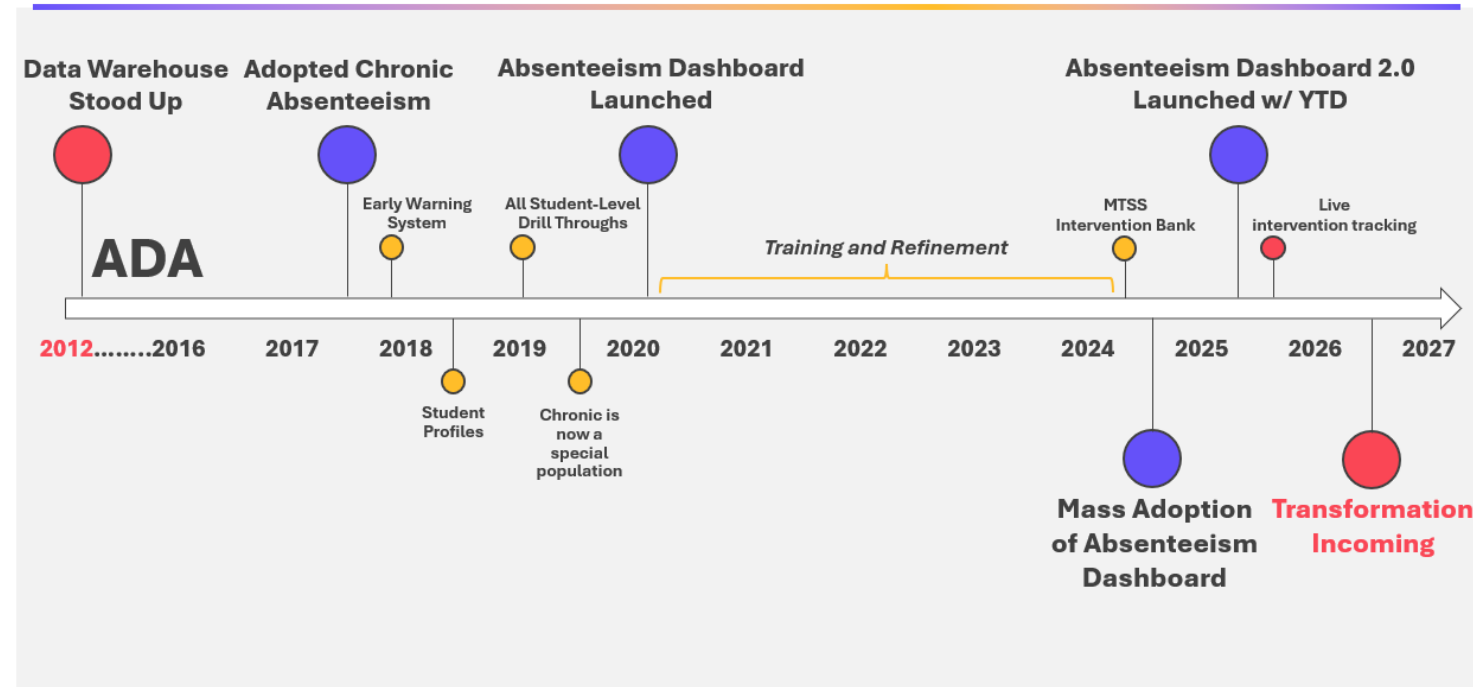


Every Enhancement Can Make A Difference

Immediate Next Steps

Patience & Plan

WCSD's Continuous Improvement of Informing Attendance



- Start taking **snapshots** of your data
- Gain adoption by **counting clicks**
- **Shared goals, consistently communicated**
- Look at ADA for **consecutive tracking** and **MTSS**
- Treat your chronically absent students as a **special population**
- **Listen to educators in schools**



Thank you for your time! Questions?



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Learn more about WCSD, our amazing students,
and educators at [WCSDdata.net](https://wcstdata.net)!

Connect with me!



[Linkedin.com/in/jt-stark](https://www.linkedin.com/in/jt-stark)



Tools & Resources

- [AEI study](#)
- ICYMI: Attendance Solutions Network [August Newsletter](#)
- Attendance Works Teaming & Data Tools
 - [Guidance for school teams](#)
 - [Guidance for district teams](#)
 - [Qualitative Data Tools](#)
 - [Classroom Attendance Calculator](#)



Thank you!

<https://www.partnershipstudentsuccess.org/>

<https://www.gradpartnership.org>



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Student Success