

Update on Chronic Absenteeism

...

and Dropout Prevention

Correlation: Attendance and Dropout

Attendance issues were again cited most frequently as the main reason for a student dropping out, accounting for almost half of all dropouts (43.9%) and high school dropouts (46.4%). The second and third most widely reported dropout reason codes were “Unknown” and “Lack of Engagement with School and/or Peers” at 13.4% and 10.6% for all dropouts and 12.3% and 11.4% for high school dropouts, respectively.

Table D-C1. Grades 1 through 12 Dropout Reason Codes, 2022–2023

	Count	Percent
Attendance	4,614	43.8%
Unknown	1,474	14.0%
Lack of engagement with school and/or peers	1,100	10.5%
Moved, school status unknown	988	9.4%
Choice of work over school	650	6.2%
Enrollment in a community college	465	4.4%
Academic problems	225	2.1%
Unstable home environment	190	1.8%
Psychological or emotional difficulties	134	1.3%
Discipline problem	126	1.2%
Employment necessary	104	1.0%
Health problems	88	0.8%
Failure to return after a long-term suspension	69	0.7%
Runaway	66	0.6%
Pregnancy	66	0.6%
Incarcerated in adult facility	43	0.4%
Need to care for children	39	0.4%
Difficulties with English language	33	0.3%
Expectations of culture, family, or peers	32	0.3%
Suspected substance abuse	14	0.1%
Marriage	3	0.0%
Total	10,523	100.0%

“Year after year, ‘Attendance’ is by far the most frequently reported dropout reason across all grades.”

- NCDPI

TCS Chronic Absence Data

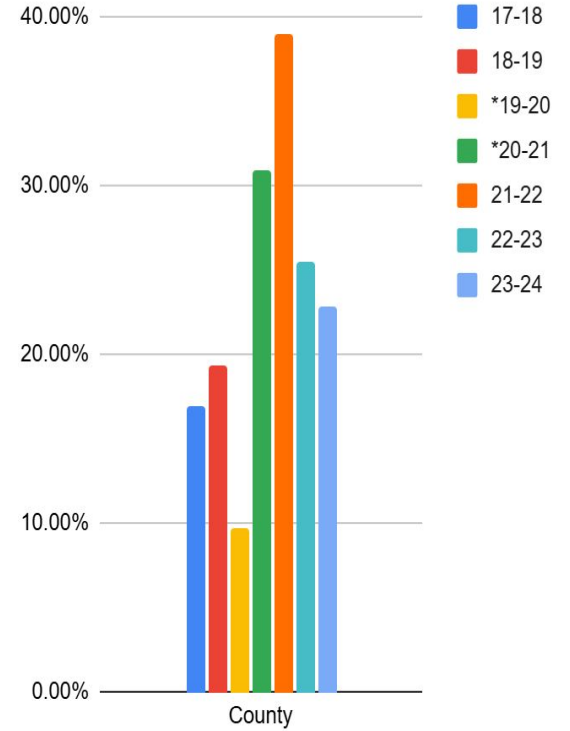
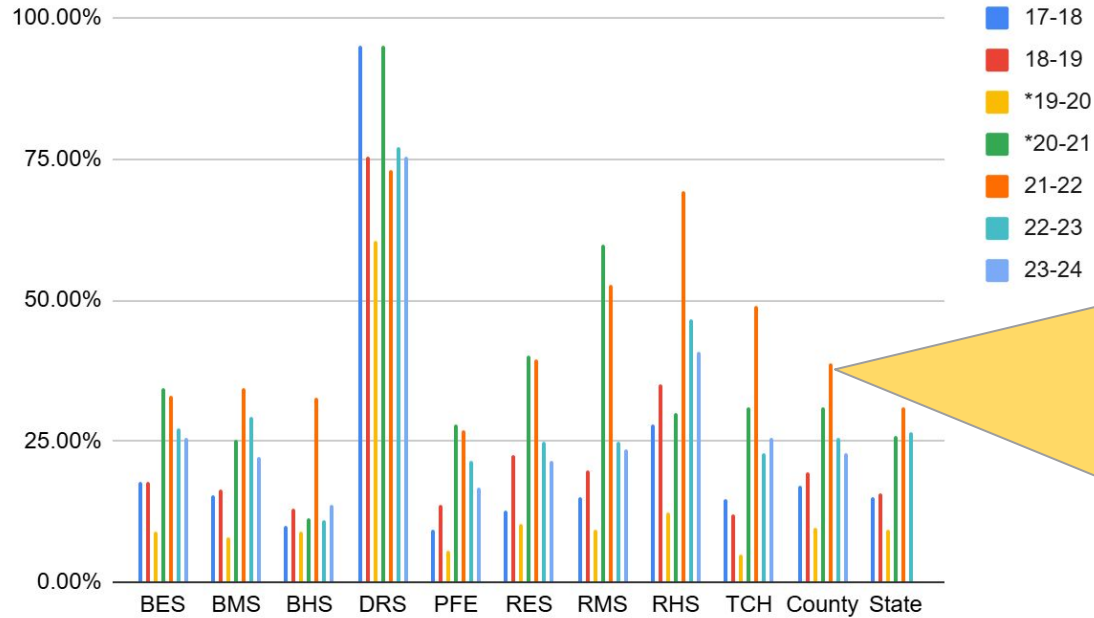
	17-18	18-19	*19-20	*20-21	21-22	22-23	23-24
BES	17.71%	17.81%	8.83%	34.57%	33.21%	27.19%	25.65%
BMS	15.58%	16.54%	7.81%	25.13%	34.54%	29.18%	22.18%
BHS	9.91%	12.92%	8.84%	11.21%	32.83%	11.08%	13.82%
DRS	95.00%	75.30%	60.52%	95.00%	72.90%	77.00%	75.28%
PFE	9.17%	13.80%	5.71%	27.80%	26.83%	21.44%	16.67%
RES	12.82%	22.55%	10.35%	40.25%	39.64%	25.00%	21.53%
RMS	15.16%	19.73%	9.36%	59.91%	52.59%	24.78%	23.67%
RHS	27.84%	35.25%	12.36%	29.92%	69.44%	46.62%	40.85%
TCH	14.61%	12.14%	5.00%	30.92%	49.07%	22.73%	25.42%
County	16.95%	19.37%	9.66%	30.92%	38.98%	25.44%	22.88%
State	15.04%	15.88%	9.30%	25.84%	31.18%	26.73%	

23-24	TOTAL #	Out of	% Change
BES	138	538	-5.66%
BMS	114	514	-23.99%
BHS	114	825	24.71%
DRS	67	89	-2.23%
PFE	75	450	-22.26%
RES	73	339	-13.86%
RMS	49	207	-4.47%
RHS	116	284	-12.39%
TCH	30	118	11.85%
County	762	3330	-10.05%

** Caution should be taken when making comparisons of 2019-2020 and 2020-2021 academic year's data to previous years. After the March 16, 2020 school closure, there were significant reductions in the number of chronically absent students. There were also fewer reported withdraw dates for dropouts in comparison to the months prior and when compared to the same time frame in the prior school years. - NCDPI*

TCS Chronic Absence Data

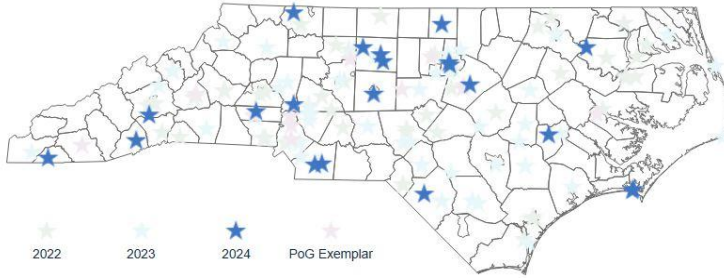
TCS Chronic Absence % for 7 Years



BHS: Promising Practices - NCDPI

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Combating Chronic Absenteeism

Brevard High School
Transylvania County Schools

Brevard High School (BHS) dropped chronic absenteeism to 11.08% last year, one of the lowest rates in the state. This achievement followed the implementation of a 3-tiered intervention system, leveraging real-time data analysis to address attendance concerns promptly before absences become chronic. Spearheaded by the Dropout Prevention Coordinator, the initiative engaged a school-based attendance team comprising BHS administrators, counselors, and the school social worker. Recognizing the heightened risk of academic struggles and dropout for chronically absent students, the Coordinator established processes utilizing automated attendance tracking systems to facilitate timely identification and response to attendance issues unique to BHS students. Proactive communication with families at each intervention level emphasized the benefits of regular school attendance, and this practice details the steps BHS took to make such strides in student attendance.

Dogwood Grant: 2024 - 2026

Measurements of Success Continued

	17-18	18-19	19-20	20-21
BHS	10.6%	12.0%	12.0%	11.0%

Practice Description and Overview Continued

Combating Chronic Absenteeism

Brevard High School
Transylvania County Schools

COLLABORATION

April/May 2024

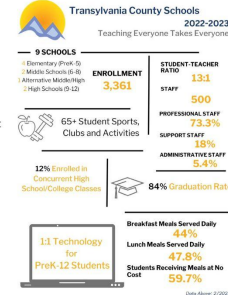
COLLABORATION

- Contribute and respond to diverse perspectives to achieve a common goal.
- Leverage strengths to resolve conflict and foster teamwork.
- Interact respectfully with others in digital and in-person interactions.
- Embrace a variety of roles in a group as a participant and a leader.

Brevard High School (BHS) dropped chronic absenteeism to 11.08% last year, one of the lowest rates in the state. This achievement followed the implementation of a 3-tiered intervention system, leveraging real-time data analysis to address attendance concerns promptly before absences become chronic. Spearheaded by the Dropout Prevention Coordinator, the initiative engaged a school-based attendance team comprising BHS administrators, counselors, and the school social worker. Recognizing the heightened risk of academic struggles and dropout for chronically absent students, the Coordinator established processes utilizing automated attendance tracking systems to facilitate timely identification and response to attendance issues unique to BHS students. Proactive communication with families at each intervention level emphasized the benefits of regular school attendance.






The BHS attendance team conducted over 1000 positive contacts and held 242 individual conversations with students and parents to address potential barriers to attendance. Additionally, an attendance committee was formed to analyze the causes of absences and determine appropriate interventions for chronically absent students. This committee, comprised of administrators, teachers (including ESL and EC), counselors, and other high school support staff, tailored corrective actions such as attendance contracts and credit recovery options based on various factors including attendance patterns and academic performance.

Expanding on BHS's success, Transylvania County Schools (TCS) has been working to adapt these systems for all schools countywide. The Coordinator collaborates with district leaders, principals, and school personnel to enhance their ability to interpret attendance data and respond proactively to early warning signs. Because chronic absenteeism can also lead to truancy charges in the juvenile justice system, exacerbating risks of recidivism and school failure, TCS aims to reduce such charges by addressing systemic community challenges like transportation and healthcare access. To this end, the Dropout Prevention Coordinator facilitated a collaborative partnership involving representatives from the District Court, Department of Social Services,








TCS Dropout Data

2022 - 2023

	 School #	 School Name	 Total Dropouts	 Dropout Rate
1	880308	Brevard High	4	0.53
2	880320	Davidson River School	24	24.74
3	880328	Rosman High	1	0.38
4	Total	LEA-wide	29	2.6

2023 - 2024

	 School #	 School Name	 Total Dropouts	 Dropout Rate
1	880308	Brevard High	4	0.49
2	880320	Davidson River School	8	10.26
3	880328	Rosman High	7	2.53
4	Total	LEA-wide	19	1.63

	04-05	05-06	06-07	07-08	08-09	09-10	10-11	11-12	12-13	13-14	14-15	15-16	16-17	17-18	18-19	*19-20	*20-21	21-22	22-23	23-24
BHS				28	22	11	13	9	6	11	11	5	4	2	5	1	3	4	4	4
DRS				30	27	26	21	21	18	28	24	16	19	19	19	13	10	11	24	8
RHS				8	3	7	1	2	0	2	3	1	4	2	6	1	0	2	1	7
Total				66	52	44	35	32	24	41	38	22	27	23	30	15	13	17	29	19
TCS Rate	2.98	3.44	3.38	3.53	2.82	2.45	1.98	1.85	1.35	2.29	2.14	1.83	2.34	1.95	2.58	1.35	1.16	1.47	2.6	1.63
State Rate	3.23	3.46	3.63	3.43	2.93	2.55	2.33	2.02	1.64	1.52	1.61	1.55	1.59	1.51	2.01	1.53	1.94	2.25	1.95	

