



Data Tip: How to Determine Chronically Absent Students

A student is chronically absent if he/she is:

- Absent for 15 or more school days during the school year;
- Not physically on school grounds and not participating in instruction or instruction-related activities at an approved off-grounds location for the school day; and
- Absent for any reason (e.g., illness, suspension, the need to care for a family member).

How to count days absent:

- Days absent are counted over the course of the entire school year and do not need to be consecutive.
- Count both excused and unexcused absences.
- An absence for 1/2 the school day or more is counted as 1 school day absence.

| Examples | Count of days absent |
|--|----------------------|
| Student is absent for less than 1/2 of a school day | 0 |
| Student is absent 1/2 of a school day | 1 |
| Student is absent more than 1/2 of a school day | 1 |
| Student is absent the entire school day | 1 |
| Student is absent 13 full days and 3 half days from school | 16 |

For a student who attends two different schools during a school year:

- A student who is absent less than 15 days at each school should not be counted as chronically absent at either school.
- A student who is absent 15 (or more) days at each school should be counted as chronically absent at both schools.

A student who is not at school, but is participating on a field trip or off-campus instruction should not be considered absent.



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- A student who is absent 15 (or more) days at the first school, but less than 15 days at the second school should be counted as chronically absent at the first school.

Note: Students who were enrolled long enough in a school to accrue 15 or more days of school absences should be counted at the school, even if they are no longer enrolled in the school.