

Statewide Chronic Absenteeism Analysis

DATA ANALYSIS • TRENDS • PROMISING PRACTICES



SIA School
Innovations
& Achievement

School Innovations & Achievement (SI&A) is an expert on student attendance, school-to-home communications and data analytics.

SI&A is unmatched with their automated capability to cleanse and standardize data.

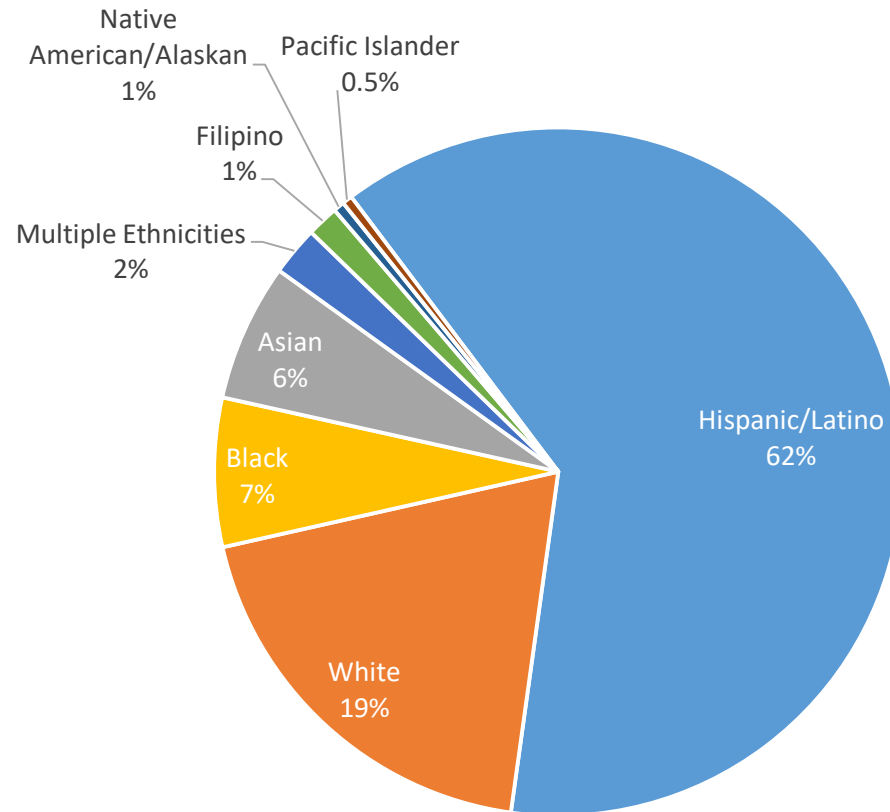
SI&A has the cleanest set of current and historical K-12 attendance data.

What we are seeing?

- Massive amounts of unexcused and unverified absence code usage
- High level of absences due to quarantine (for those who track it)
- Chronic absence rates were bad last year, now worse this year
- Enrollment continues to decline

What are you seeing?

Demographic Breakdown of Dataset

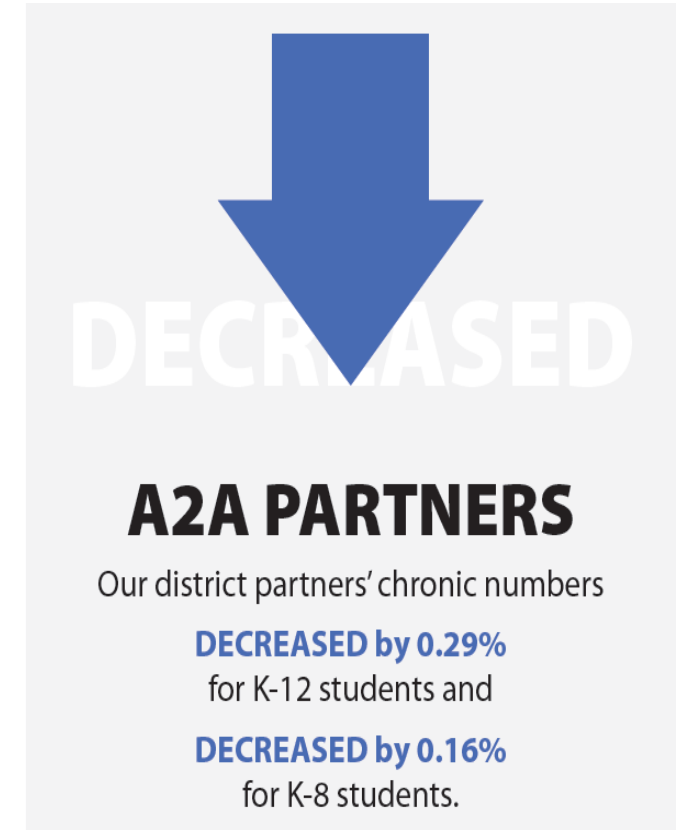
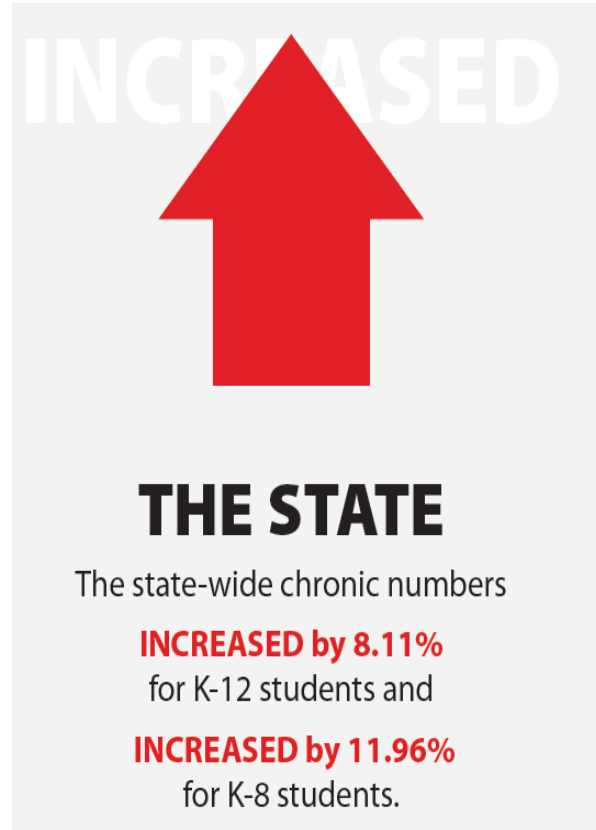


The pie chart displays the racial/ethnic composition of active students in the districts. This composition closely resembles the overall California state enrollment.

The dataset includes districts from the following 17 counties across California:
Contra Costa, Fresno, Humboldt, Kern, Kings, Los Angeles, Merced, Monterey, Riverside, Sacramento, San Bernardino, San Mateo, Santa Barbara, Santa Clara, Sutter, Tulare, Ventura

A2A District Chronic Absence Rates are Lower

- It's important to note, although the data shows an increase in chronic absentee rates, what we know is that A2A districts have better results than most non-A2A districts.
- A2A district partners outperform the statewide average in chronic absence rates when looking at the CA Dashboard chronic absentee rate changes from 2017-18 to 2018-19.
- The CA Dashboard did not report for the 2019-20 school year



Overall Increase in Chronic Absence

- Unfortunately, we see a 9.4% increase in the overall chronic rate, which is a nearly 52% growth rate compared to this time last year.

			Oct 2020 vs. Oct 2021		
Oct 2019 Chronic Absence Rate	Oct 2020 Chronic Absence Rate	Oct 2021 Chronic Absence Rate	Increase in Chronic	Rate of Increase	Est. Non-A2A Rate of Increase
11.2%	18.0%	27.4%	9.4%	51.9%	98.6%

Chronic Absence Comparison by District Type

- Once again, Elementary School Districts have the largest rate of increase in chronic rates.
- High School Districts have the highest chronic rate
 - 34% of their students are chronically absent.

				Oct 2020 vs. Oct 2021	
District Type	Oct 2019 Chronic Absence Rate	Oct 2020 Chronic Absence Rate	Oct 2021 Chronic Absence Rate	A2A Rate of Increase	Est. Non-A2A Rate of Increase
ESD	9.2%	15.8%	25.9%	63.7%	140.4%
HSD	16.0%	28.0%	33.9%	21.4%	51.4%
USD	10.0%	14.8%	25.2%	70.0%	126.7%

Chronic Absence Comparison by Enrollment

- The largest rate of increase in chronic rates is one again seen in districts with < 3500 student enrollment.

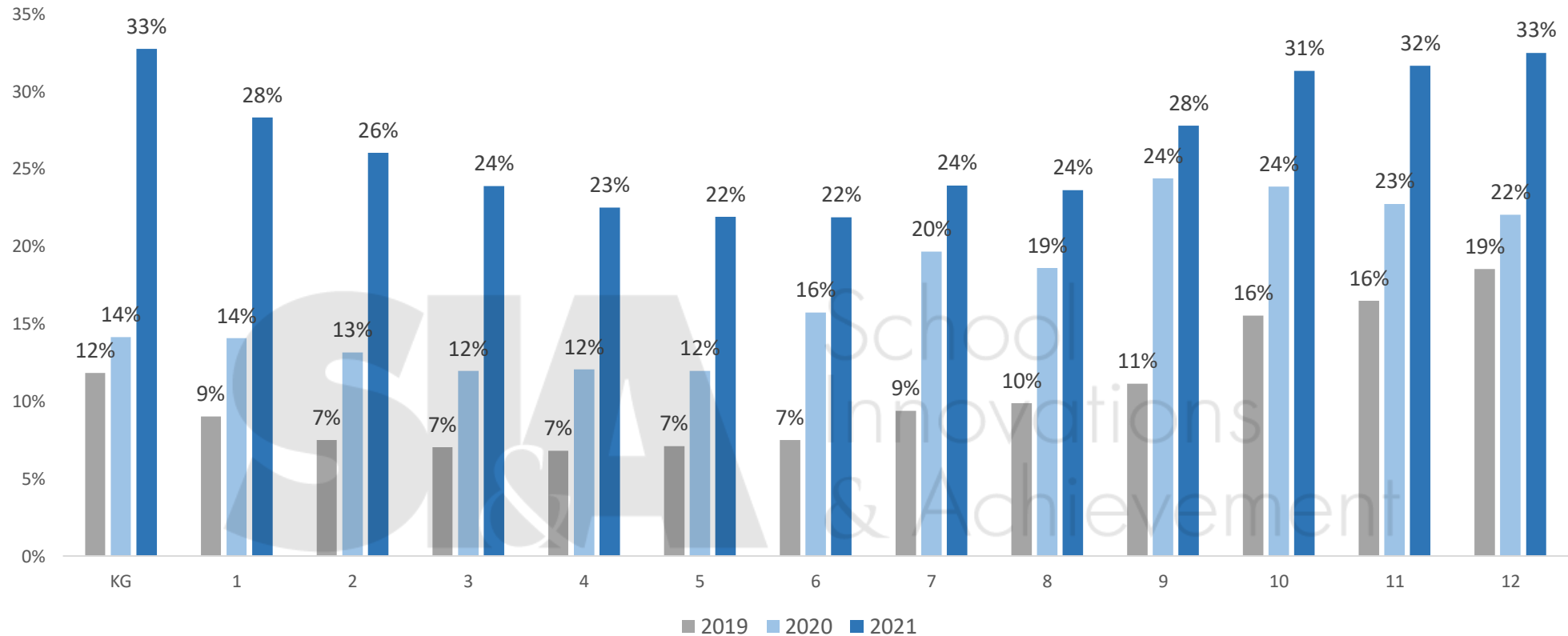
				Oct 2020 vs. Oct 2021	
District Size	Oct 2019 Chronic Absence Rate	Oct 2020 Chronic Absence Rate	Oct 2021 Chronic Absence Rate	A2A Rate of Increase	Est. Non-A2A Rate of Increase
< 3500	7.7%	14.0%	26.4%	88.2%	148.1%
3500 - 5000	14.2%	18.7%	32.3%	72.2%	117.0%
5000 - 10000	10.4%	15.5%	22.3%	43.6%	97.7%
10000 - 20000	11.2%	19.6%	26.3%	34.2%	77.1%
> 20000	12.2%	18.7%	30.9%	65.3%	110.2%

Chronic Rate Comparison By Grade

- We see the largest rate of increase in chronic rates in the primary grades

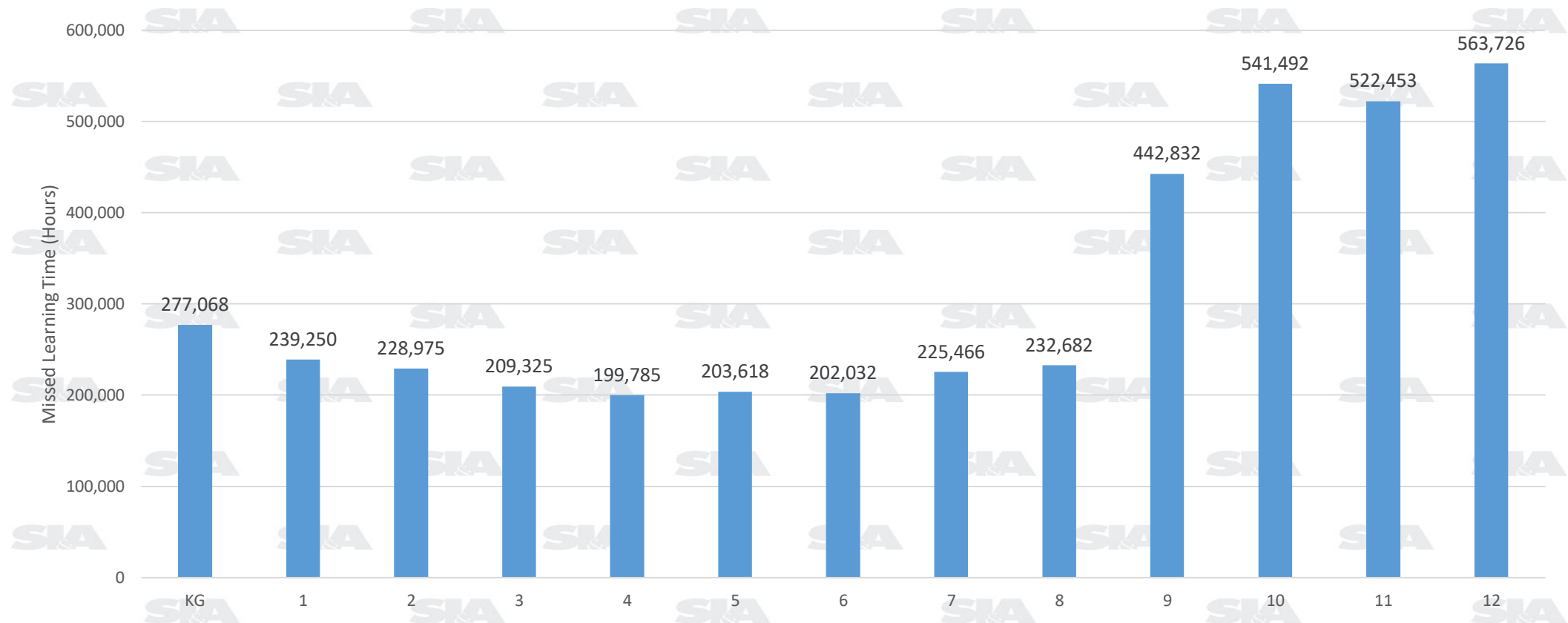
				Oct 2020 vs. Oct 2021	
Grade	Oct 2019 Chronic Absence Rate	Oct 2020 Chronic Absence Rate	Oct 2021 Chronic Absence Rate	A2A Rate of Increase	Est. Non-A2A Rate of Increase
KG	11.8%	14.1%	32.7%	131.6%	217.3%
1	9.0%	14.1%	28.3%	101.4%	187.6%
2	7.5%	13.1%	26.0%	98.1%	190.3%
3	7.0%	11.9%	23.9%	100.2%	201.7%
4	6.8%	12.0%	22.5%	86.9%	187.5%
5	7.1%	11.9%	21.9%	83.3%	184.7%
6	7.5%	15.7%	21.9%	39.1%	116.1%
7	9.4%	19.7%	23.9%	21.7%	83.4%
8	9.9%	18.6%	23.6%	27.0%	92.2%
9	11.1%	24.4%	27.8%	13.9%	48.4%
10	15.5%	23.8%	31.3%	31.4%	66.6%
11	16.5%	22.7%	31.6%	39.1%	76.0%
12	18.5%	22.0%	32.5%	47.5%	85.7%

Chronic Rate Comparison By Grade



Missed Instructional Time

- *Total Missed Hours of Learning Time: **4,141,096 Hours***



Chronic Absence Comparison by Race/Ethnicity

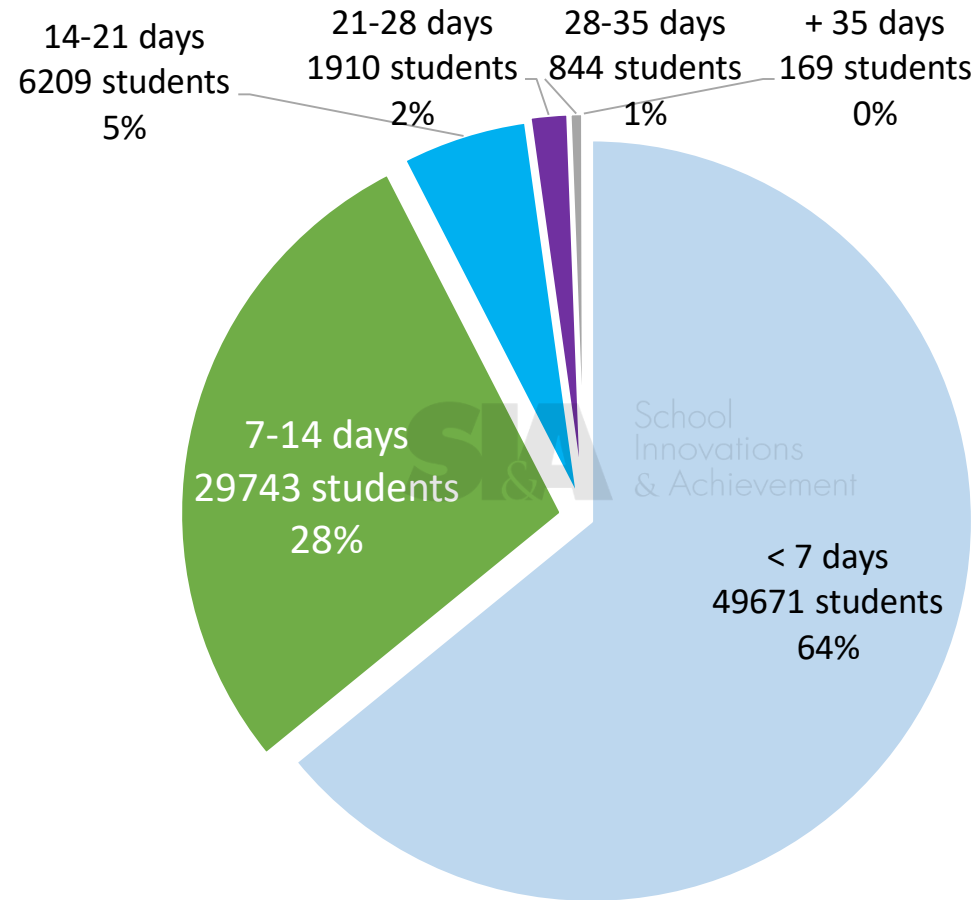
- The highest rates of chronic absence is still experienced by Black and Hispanic/Latino students.

				Oct 2020 vs. Oct 2021	
Race/Ethnicity	Oct 2019 Chronic Absence Rate	Oct 2020 Chronic Absence Rate	Oct 2021 Chronic Absence Rate	A2A Rate of Increase	Est. Non-A2A Rate of Increase
Hispanic/Latino	11.8%	20.4%	29.9%	73.2%	87.6%
White	10.0%	11.4%	22.4%	14.1%	171.0%
Black	15.9%	28.8%	34.6%	81.0%	49.2%
Asian	5.1%	6.7%	11.4%	30.3%	197.1%
Multiple Ethnicities	10.7%	15.5%	24.3%	43.9%	111.7%
Filipino	5.3%	6.0%	13.4%	12.7%	262.9%
Native American/Alaskan	15.3%	21%	35%	40.7%	101.5%
Pacific Islander	18.6%	26%	31%	41.7%	47.4%

Ethnicities ordered by largest to smallest proportion of the population

Number of Days Missed by Chronically Absent Students

- Chronic absenteeism is applied to 10% or more of missed day.
- Disaggregating the data allows us to see that most students have only missed a few days so far.
- Majority of kids have missed less than 7 days.



Subgroup Comparisons

- ELL student chronic absence rates continue to rise.
- Unfortunately, non-ELL designated students have caught up.

English Language Learners				Oct. 2020 vs. Oct. 2021		
Subgroups	Oct 2019 Chronic Absence Rate	Oct 2020 Chronic Absence Rate	Oct 2021 Chronic Absence Rate	Increase in Chronic	Rate of Increase	Est. Non-A2A Rate of Increase
English Language Learner	12.8%	25.2%	28.7%	3.4%	13.6%	47.0%
Non English Language Learner	10.9%	16.0%	27.5%	11.5%	72.0%	124.5%

- Chronic absence rates increased by 11.5% for students who have F&R Lunch Status
- Paid Lunch students' chronic absence rates doubled. Increasing from 10.1% to 23.8%

Free & Reduced Lunch				Oct. 2020 vs. Oct. 2021		
Subgroups	Oct 2019 Chronic Absence Rate	Oct 2020 Chronic Absence Rate	Oct 2021 Chronic Absence Rate	Increase in Chronic	Rate of Increase	Est. Non-A2A Rate of Increase
Free & Reduced Lunch	13.3%	23.2%	34.7%	11.5%	49.4%	85.6%
Paid Lunch	8.4%	10.1%	23.8%	13.7%	135.9%	219.3%

Subgroup Comparison

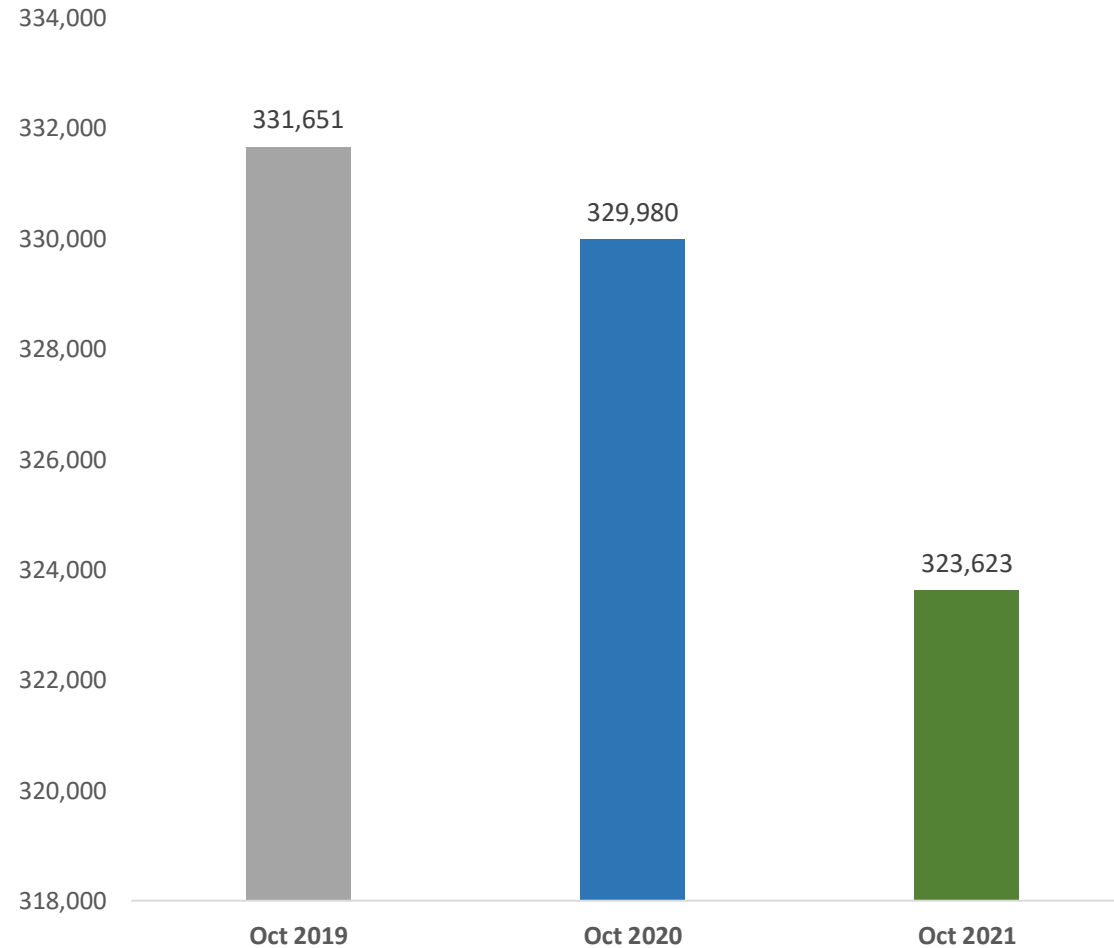
- The chronic absence rate for students not in foster care jumped to rates similar to students in foster care.

Foster Care				Oct. 2020 vs. Oct. 2021		
Subgroups	Oct 2019 Chronic Absence Rate	Oct 2020 Chronic Absence Rate	Oct 2021 Chronic Absence Rate	Increase in Chronic	Rate of Increase	Est. Non-A2A Rate of Increase
Foster Care	13.5%	22.6%	33.8%	11.2%	49.7%	86.9%
Permanent Housing	9.3%	13.0%	28.5%	15.5%	119.0%	183.6%

**Permanent Housing status includes any student who is not categorized as Foster Care status*

Enrollment Continues to Drop

- These districts show a decline in the number of active students in Oct 2020 vs. Oct 2021
- Those 6,357 students equate to almost 1.9% of the active student population in Oct 2020



Behind the Numbers

- California is experiencing zero population growth for the first time in decades
 - Statewide enrollment trends have been on a slow decline; however, the drop from 2019–20 to 2020–21 was by far the largest drop ever at -2.60% in the statewide student population*
 - Zero population growth in 2020 and demographic projections suggest that student enrollment will endure a long period of decline, resulting in a nearly 11.4% fall by 2030–31*
- Anecdotally, our team has heard a few drivers behind some of these numbers
 - Kids not prepared for classroom environment. Increase in fighting and decrease in social skills, SEL/mental health issues
 - Continued instability at home
 - Disaffected families due to the shut downs, masking and quarantines

District Leadership: It's not too late!

95% of these chronic students do not have to end the year chronically absent

- 88,546 students are chronically absent so far
- 83,937* students have not missed 18 or more days of school yet. They do not have to end the year as chronically absent.

* Based on 18 days missed by the end of the year will land a student in the chronic absence category



Recommendations

- Review attendance taking practices and ensure fidelity
 - “Inspect what you expect”
- We recommend that districts differentiate absences due to pandemic
 - Implement a pandemic-related absence code (Excused)
- Prioritize outreach to students chronically absent last year
- Know your data. Know what it means and the story it is telling at your district
- Enlist all departments to focus on attendance, regularly share the data with other teams

Recommendations

- Resume weekend makeup to increase opportunities for learning
- We recommend districts send excused absence notifications for excused reasons including quarantined kids explaining: IS options, Saturday school, health resources if student is showing symptoms, etc.
- Think ahead- Now is the time to double down on attendance messaging
 - Delta #s dropping
 - Holidays are coming
 - Fiscal Cliff- many school districts will experience a funding cliff at some point in the future if they are experiencing attendance declines exacerbated by COVID-19*

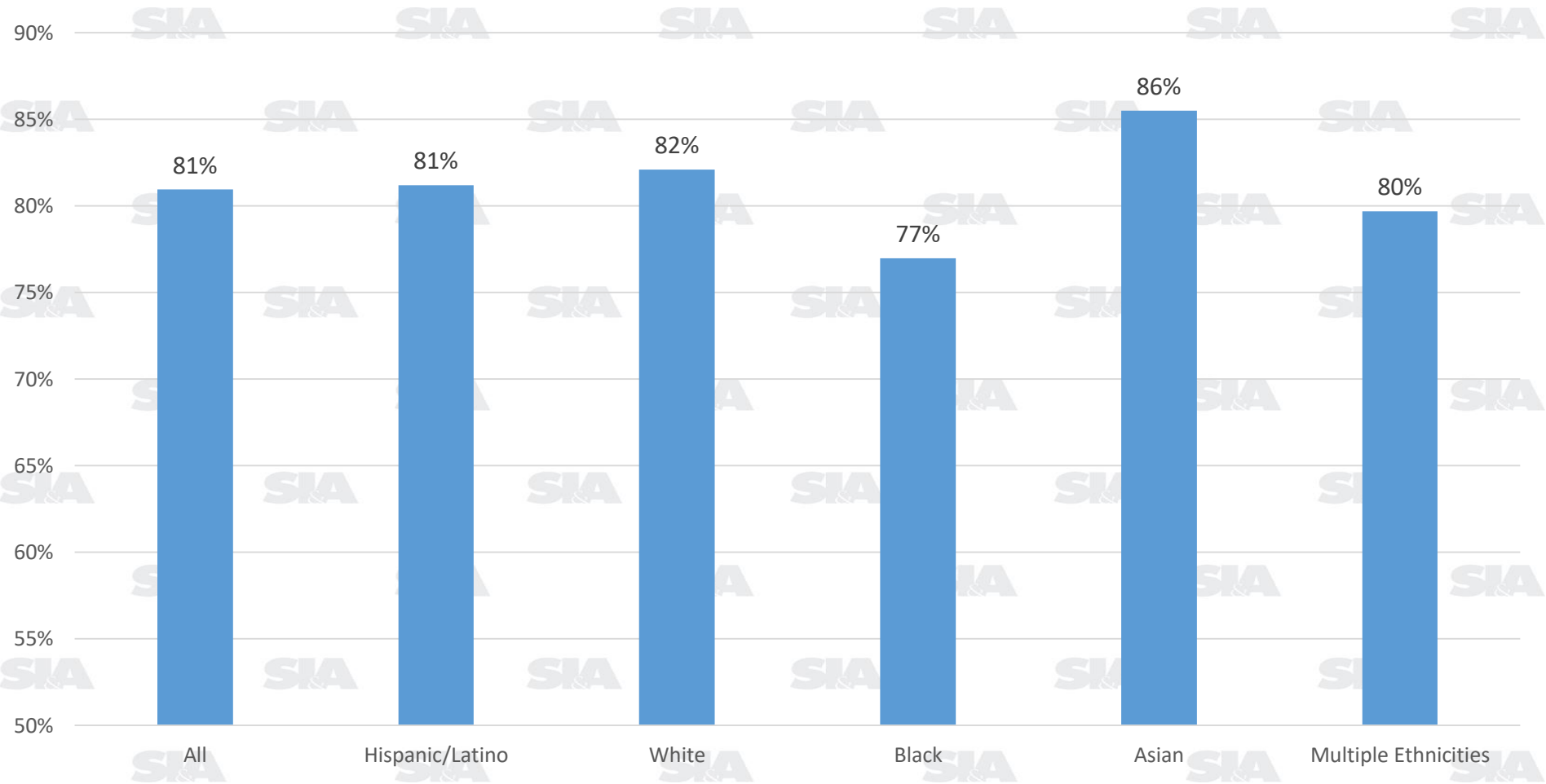
*School Services of California webinar 10/12/21

SaveRates: Efficacy of Attendance Letters

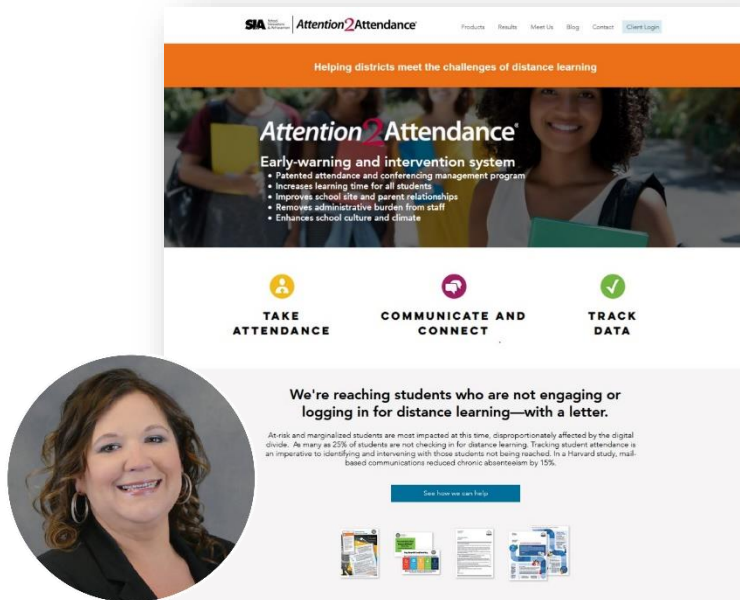
Letter Type	At Risk	Saved	SaveRate
Unexcused Absence Letter	38,873	30,359	78.1%
Excused Absence Letter	9,534	8,715	91.4%
General Absence Letter	304	213	70.1%

**Truancy Letters and Unexcused Distance Learning Letters included in Unexcused Absence Letter rate. EEA Letters and Excused Distance Learning Letters included in Excused Absence Letter rate. EA Letters and General Distance Learning Letters included in General Absence Letter rate.*

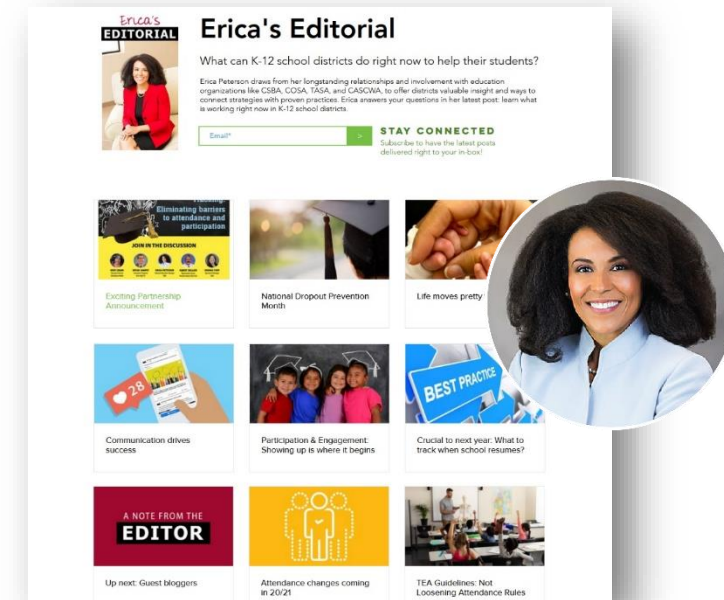
2021-22 SaveRATE by Ethnicity



How Can SI&A Support You at Your District?



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