



Chronic Absenteeism and Its Impact on Student Learning

Prepared for the Legislative Education Study Committee

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Angelo J. Gonzales, Ph.D.

Chief Strategy Officer

United Way of Central New Mexico



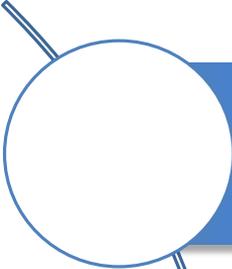
MissionGraduateNM

#60Kby2020

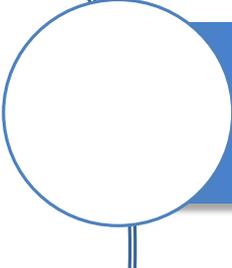


@MissionGraduate

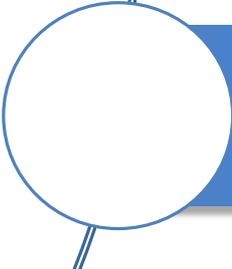
Presentation Overview



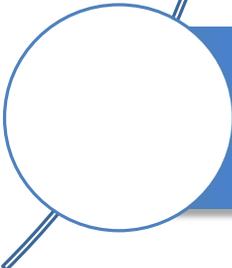
About Mission: Graduate



Why Attendance?



What Can We Do About It?



Recommendations

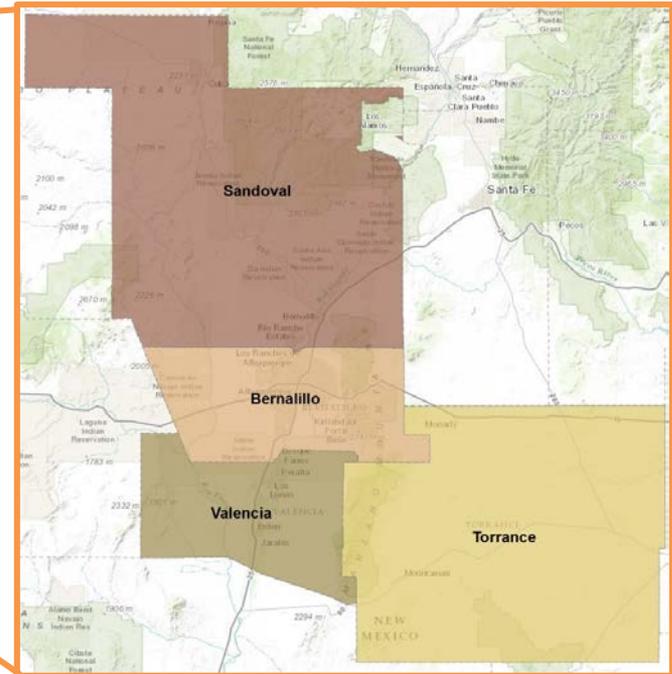


About Mission: Graduate

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Mission: Graduate is a **cradle-to-career education partnership** serving Central New Mexico.



Our Leadership: Vision Council



- **Bill Anderson**, VP & General Manager, KRQE News 13 & Fox New Mexico
- **Del Archuleta**, President & CEO, Molzen-Corbin & Associates
- **Ernie C'deBaca**, President & CEO, Albuquerque Hispano Chamber of Commerce
- **V. Sue Cleveland**, Superintendent, Rio Rancho Public Schools
- **Keith Cowan**, Superintendent, Bernalillo Public Schools
- **Del Esparza**, President, Esparza Advertising
- **Charles Griego**, Mayor, Village of Los Lunas
- **Maggie Hart-Stebbins**, Member, Bernalillo County Commission
- **Gary Housley**, President, Don Chalmers Ford
- **Gregg Hull**, Mayor, City of Rio Rancho
- **Kirby Jefferson**, Vice President, Technology & Manufacturing Group, Intel Corporation (Vision Council Co-Chair)
- **Franz Joachim**, General Manager, New Mexico PBS
- **Tim Keller**, Mayor, City of Albuquerque
- **Leean Kravitz**, Vice President, Public Affairs, Fidelity Investments
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- **Raquel Reedy**, Superintendent, Albuquerque Public Schools
- **Ed Rivera**, President & CEO, United Way of Central New Mexico
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- **Dana Sanders**, Superintendent, Los Lunas Schools
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- **Gary Tonjes**, President, Albuquerque Economic Development
- **Kent Walz**, Senior Editor, Albuquerque Journal
- **Kathie Winograd**, President, Central New Mexico Community College
- **Stephen Younger**, Laboratories Director, Sandia National Laboratories

Our Big Goal



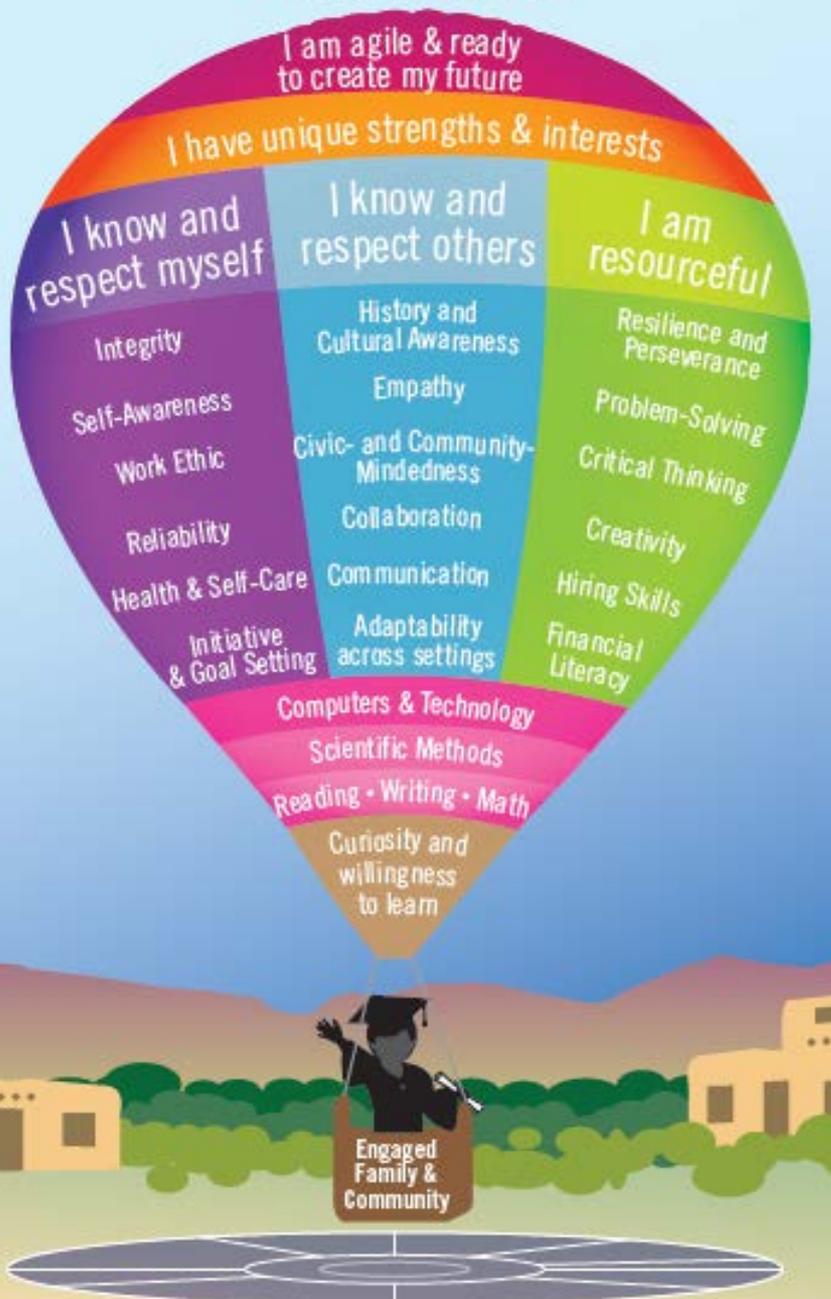
**60,000 New Central NM Graduates with
College Degrees and Certificates by 2020**



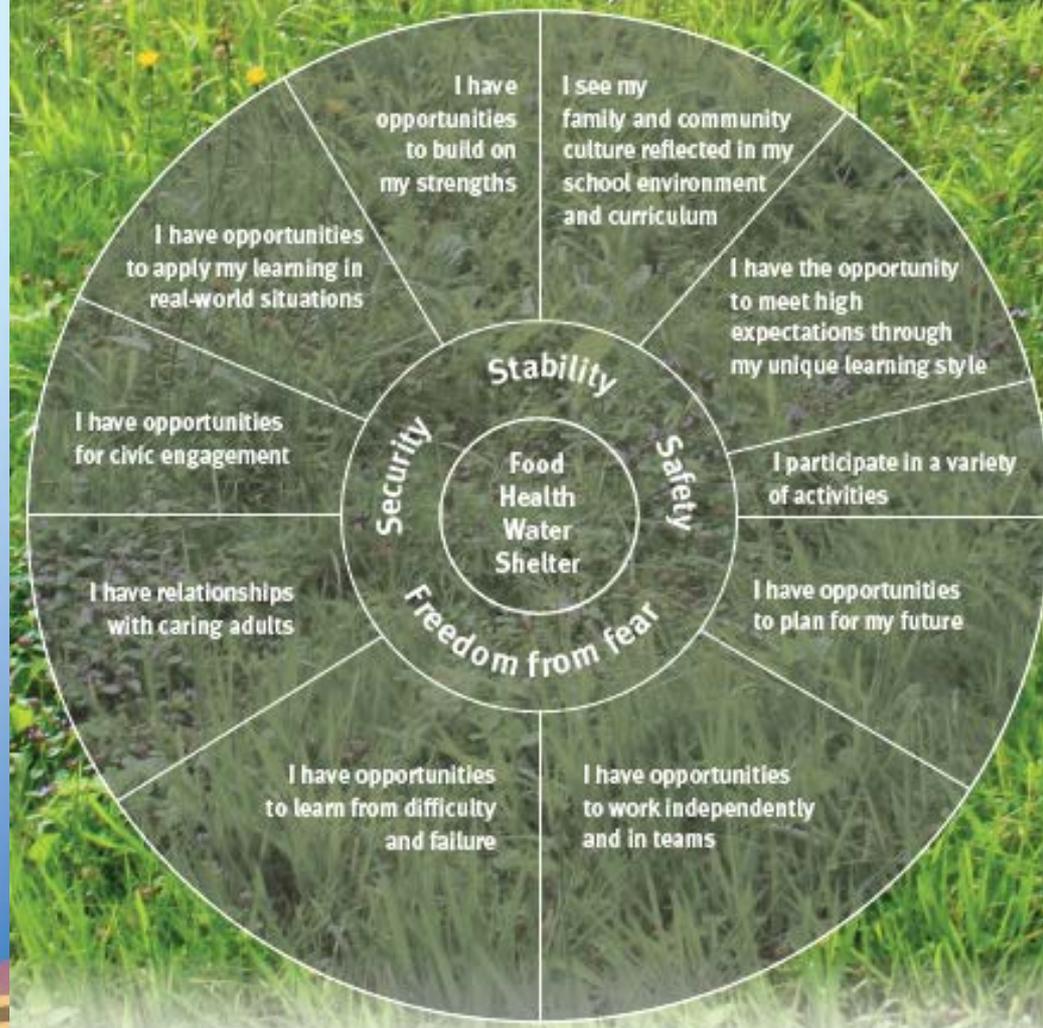


Prepared for College, Career, & Life

ALBUQUERQUE GRADUATE PROFILE



THE LAUNCHPAD: Foundational Experiences



Community voices informed the development of the Graduate Profile and Launchpad. Mission: Graduate, an education partnership, facilitated 45 focus groups with principals and teachers, postsecondary faculty, employees from different sectors, young people, parents, and community members. More information is available in the Graduate Profile User Guide.



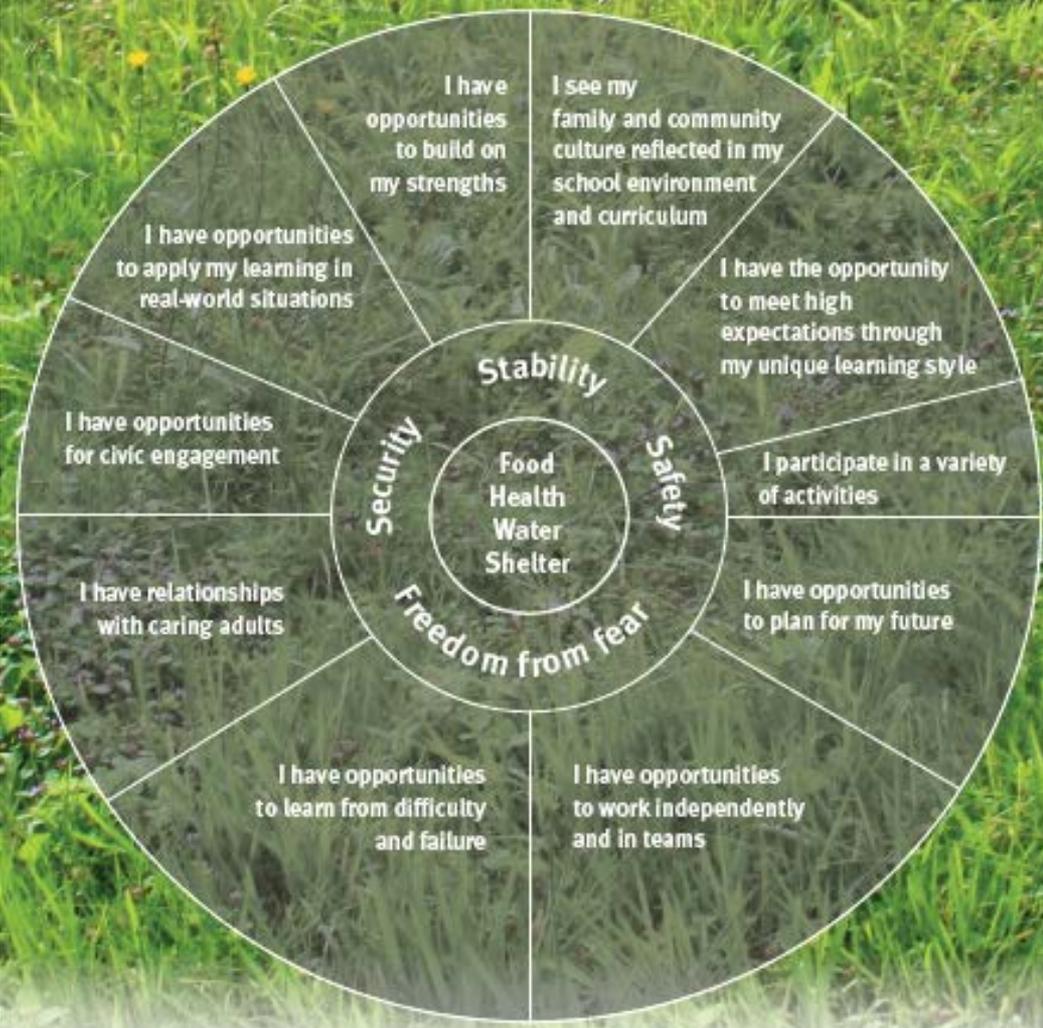


Why Attendance?

ALBUQUERQUE GRADUATE PROFILE



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Why Attendance?



Attendance is one of three key predictors of falling off track to graduation.

- **A**ttendance: <85-90% school attendance
- **B**ehavior: “unsatisfactory” behavior mark in at least one class
- **C**ourse Performance: A final grade of “F” in Math and/or English or Credit-Bearing HS Course

Source: Robert Balfanz, “Building a Grad Nation: The Role of Learning Beyond the Classroom,” Presentation to the C.S. Mott Foundation, September 2011.



Truancy Vs. Chronic Absence

TRUANCY

- Counts only unexcused absences
- Emphasizes compliance with school rules
- Relies on legal & administrative solutions

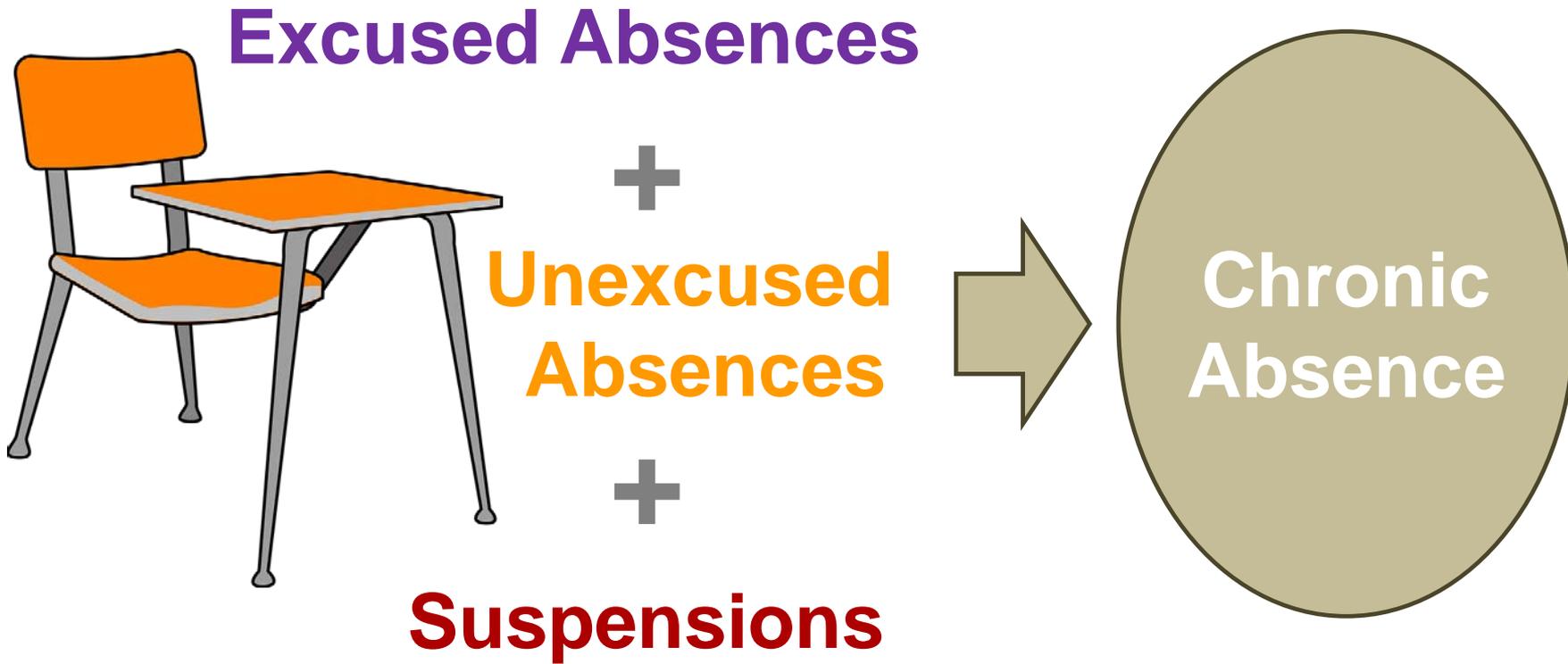
Vs.

CHRONIC ABSENCE

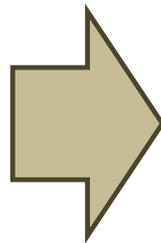
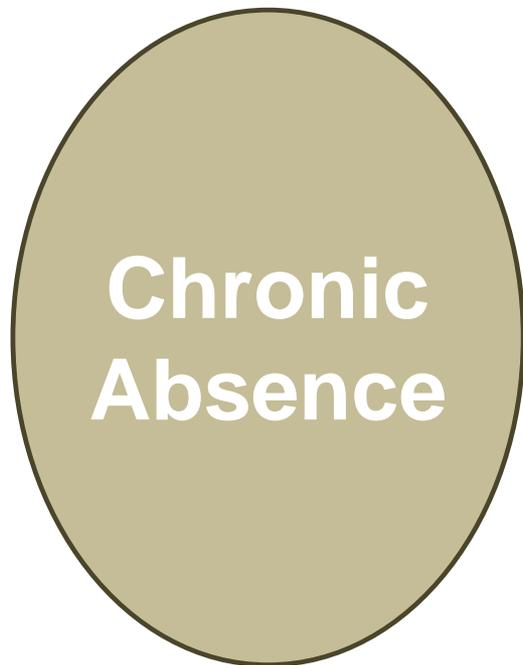
- Counts all absences: excused, unexcused & suspensions
- Emphasizes academic impact of missed days
- Uses community-based, positive strategies



Chronic Absence Means Missing School For Any Reason



Research Shows that Chronic Absence is Associated with Lower Academic Outcomes

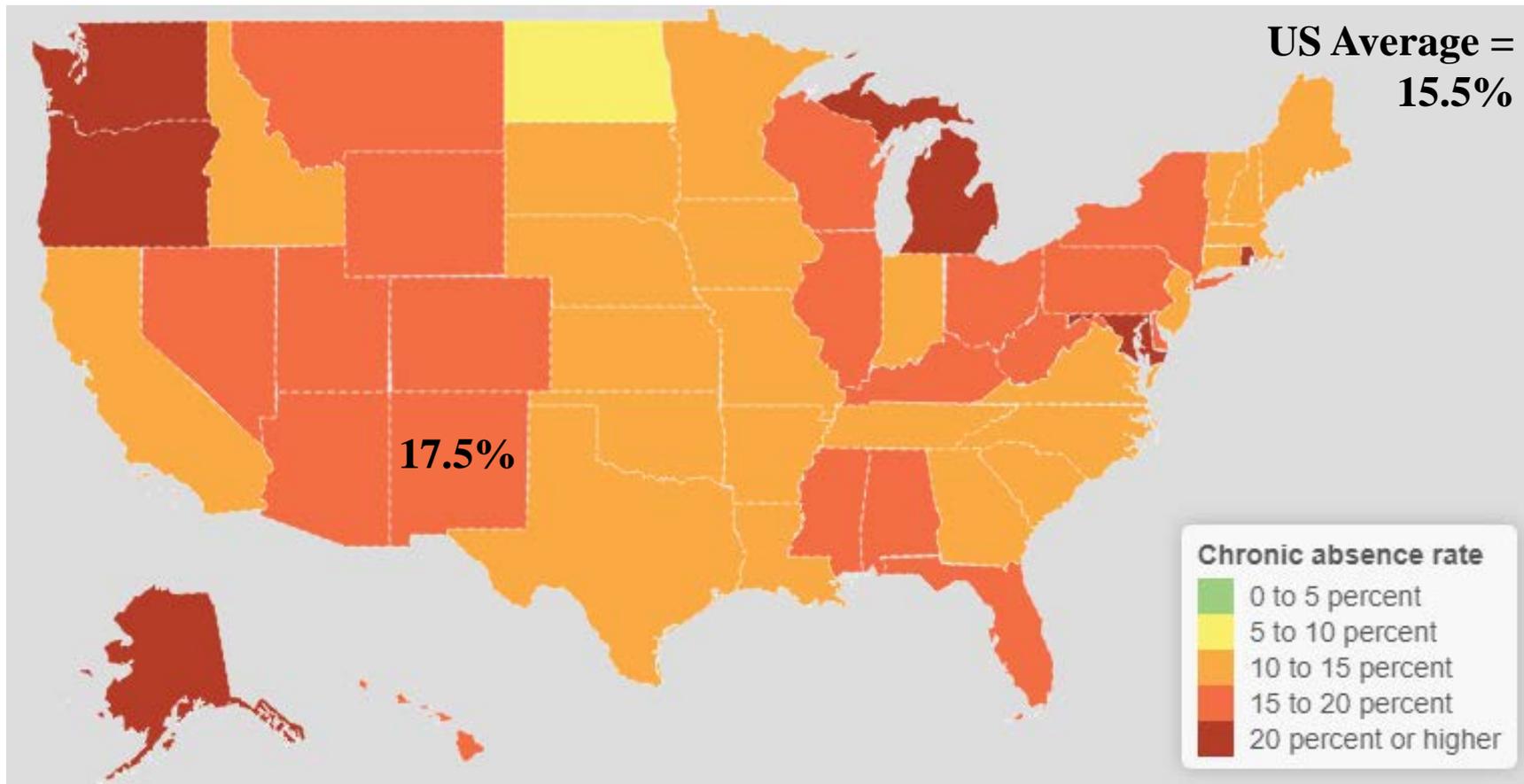


Less likely to:

- Build good attendance habits
- Read by third grade
- Stay in school
- Graduate from high school

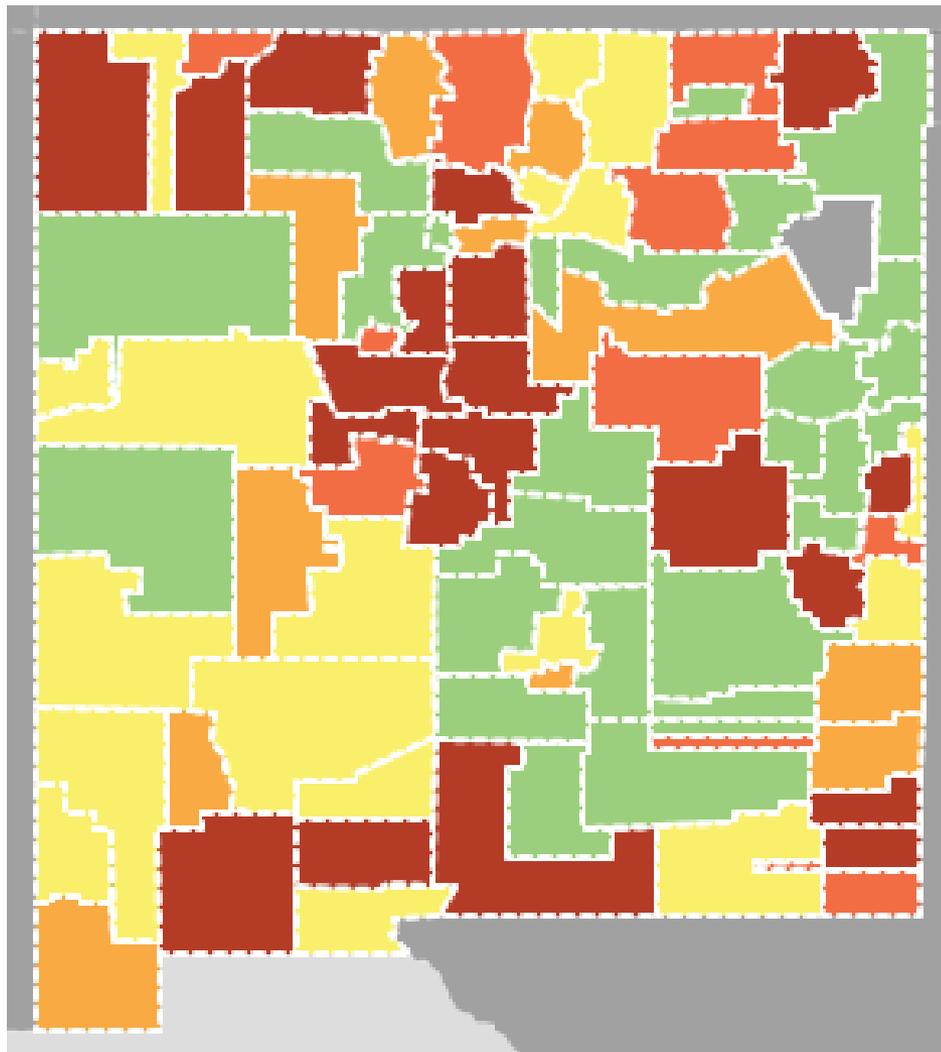


Chronic Absence Snapshot: 15-Day Threshold



Source: U.S. Department of Education, Office of Civil Rights Dataset, 2015; Mapping by The Hamilton Project, Brookings, http://www.hamiltonproject.org/charts/chronic_absence_across_the_united_states

Chronic Absence Snapshot: 15-Day Threshold



State Average = 17.5%

Ten Largest School Districts:

APS = 22.4%

Las Cruces = 24.7%

Rio Rancho = 19.1%

Gadsden = 6.7%

Santa Fe = 20.2%

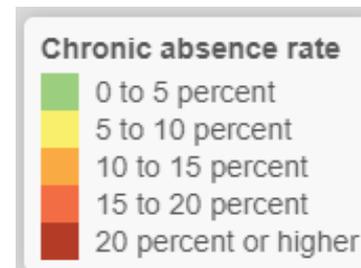
Gallup-McKinley = 1.0%

Farmington = 8.4%

Roswell = 3.1%

Hobbs = 27.2%

Los Lunas = 19.9%



Source: U.S. Department of Education, Office of Civil Rights Dataset, 2015; Mapping by The Hamilton Project, Brookings, http://www.hamiltonproject.org/charts/chronic_absence_across_the_united_states

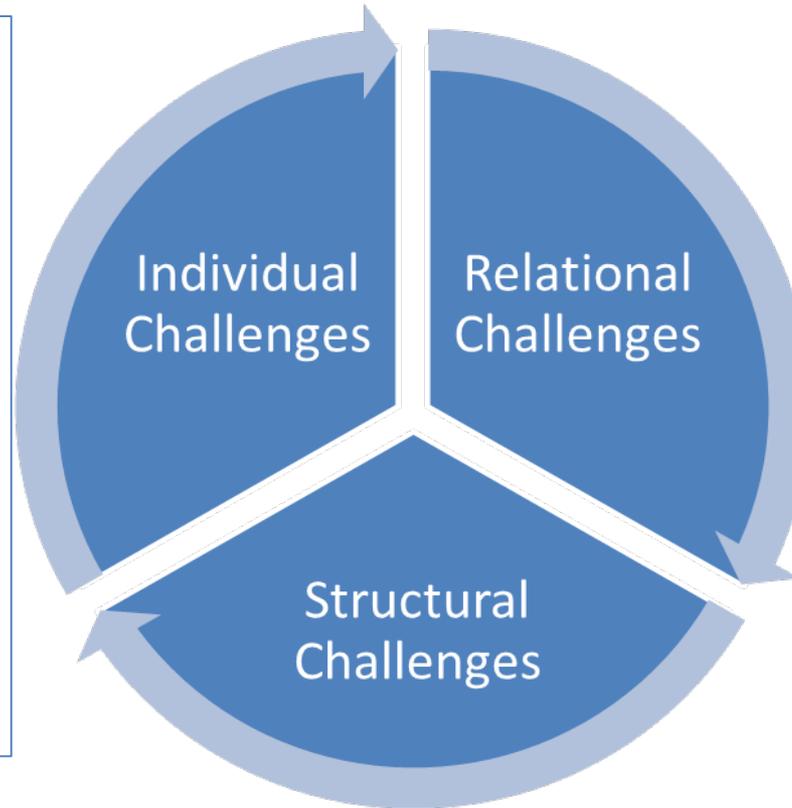


What Can We Do About It?

The Causes Of Poor Attendance Are Complex



- Low Academic Performance
- Low Educational Aspirations
- Boredom with School
- Drug Use
- Pregnancy
- Health-related problems



- Lack of Caring Adults
- Bullying
- Lack of Participation in School Sports & Activities

- Weak Policies on Truancy
- Institutional Racism and Discrimination
- Class Size and School Size
- Transportation Issues
- Family Economics

Source: Winograd, P., Gonzales, A., and Timm, J. 2011. Truancy in New Mexico: Attendance Matters. Presentation to the New Mexico Legislative Education Study Committee. <http://ccpi.unm.edu/>.

Mission: Graduate's Approach



1. Awareness



2. School-Based Partnerships & Continuous Improvement



3. Policy Change



Every Day Matters Awareness Campaign



- Participation in Attendance Awareness Month.
- Free toolkits for school leaders, parents, & others.
- TV and radio PSAs and social media.
- Billboards, posters, and other marketing materials.



EVERY DAY MATTERS



SHOWING UP TO SCHOOL



Every day I learn new things.
Every day I build relationships.
Every day I take steps toward success.

EVERY DAY MATTERS



Be sure your school has your up-to-date contact information!

<http://missiongraduatenm.org/attendance>

Awareness: Parent Attendance Guides



missiongraduatenm.org



**Missing more than one day
a month can knock students
off track.**



Get Help With Homework:
Dial-A-Teacher
Statewide: **1-800-94STUDY**



For Help Finding Resources:
2-1-1 (This is a free call).



Ask For Advice From A Nurse:
1-877-725-2552



Call Your School For Attendance
Assistance Or If Your Child Is Sick
My School's Important Phone Number:



**Intended as a
discussion tool
for school staff.**

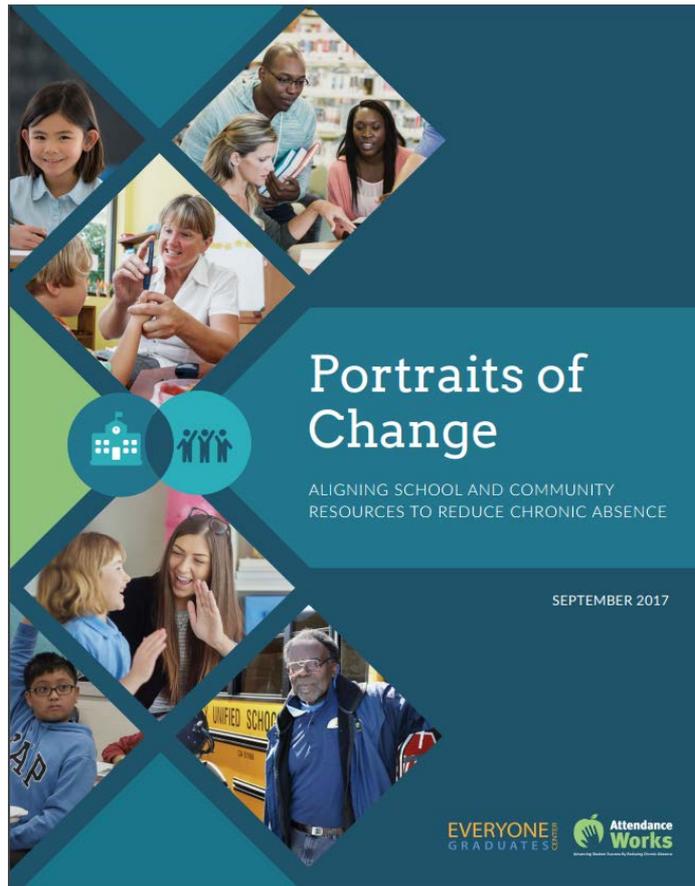
Every Day Matters

Together my family can...

Ways to keep my child healthy

What is chronic absence and truancy?

School-Based Approaches



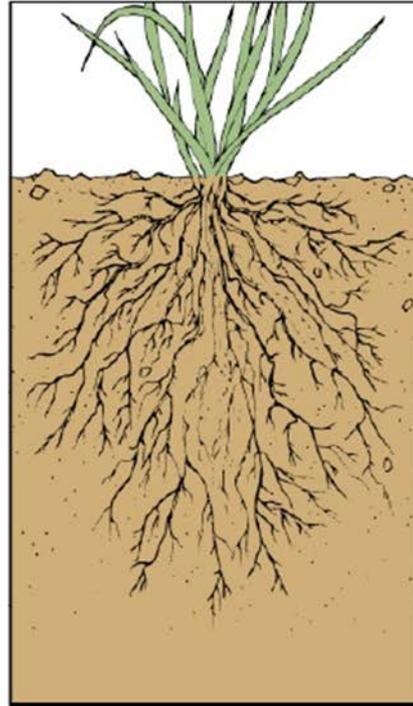
- Use data to identify root causes and create targeted solutions.
- Adopt a three-tiered intervention approach.
 - Universal prevention
 - Early intervention
 - Specialized support
- Engage students, families, school teachers & staff, and community partners to jointly determine causes and implement solutions.

Read more at <http://www.attendanceworks.org>

Identifying Root Causes



Symptom
(obvious)



Cause
(not so obvious)

Attendance Teams



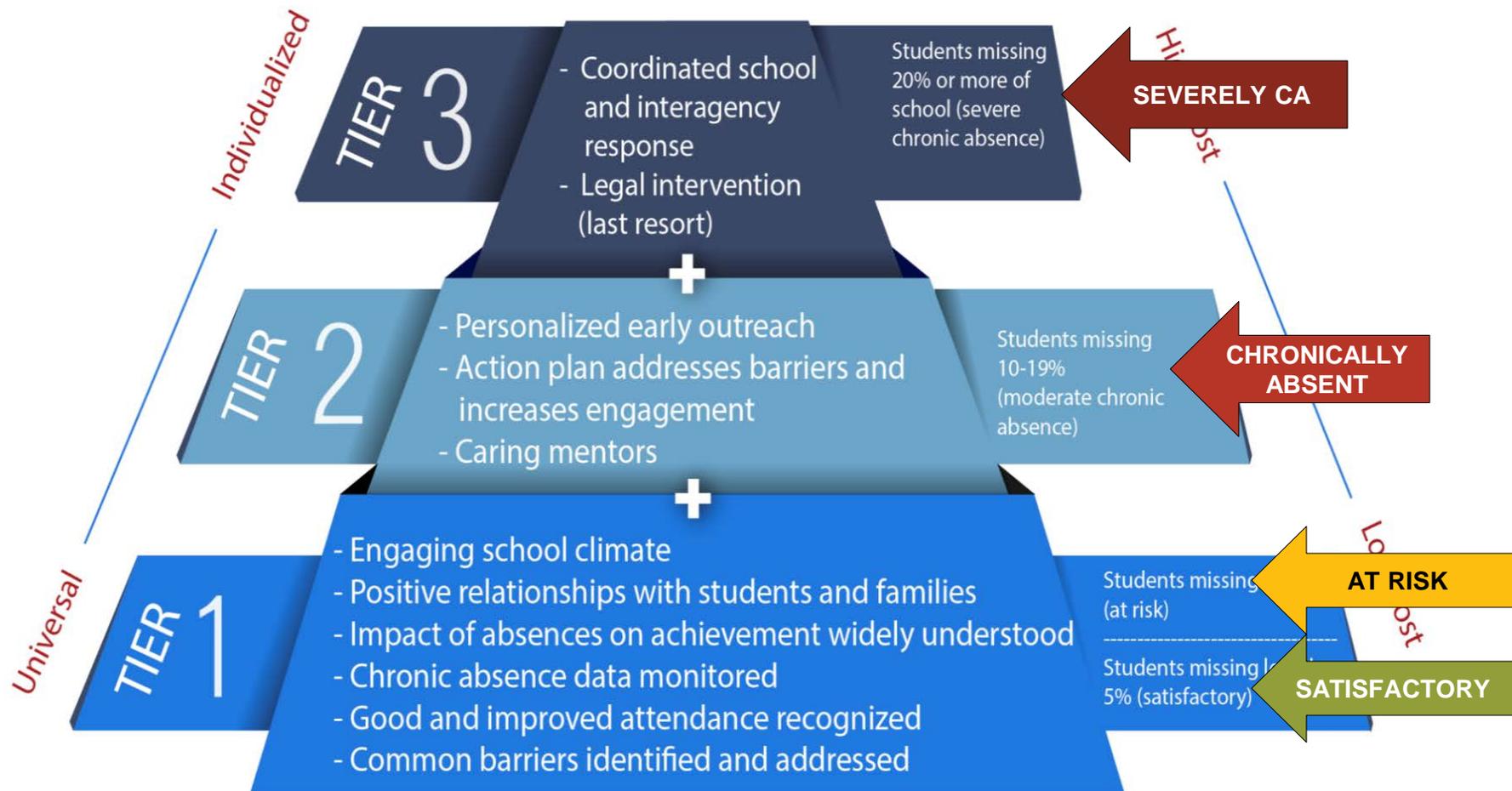
- Should be **action-oriented**
- **Use data** to understand which sub-populations of students are most affected and what are trends over time
- **Identify and mobilize** school and community resources to address identified needs



Using Data to Identify Students in Need



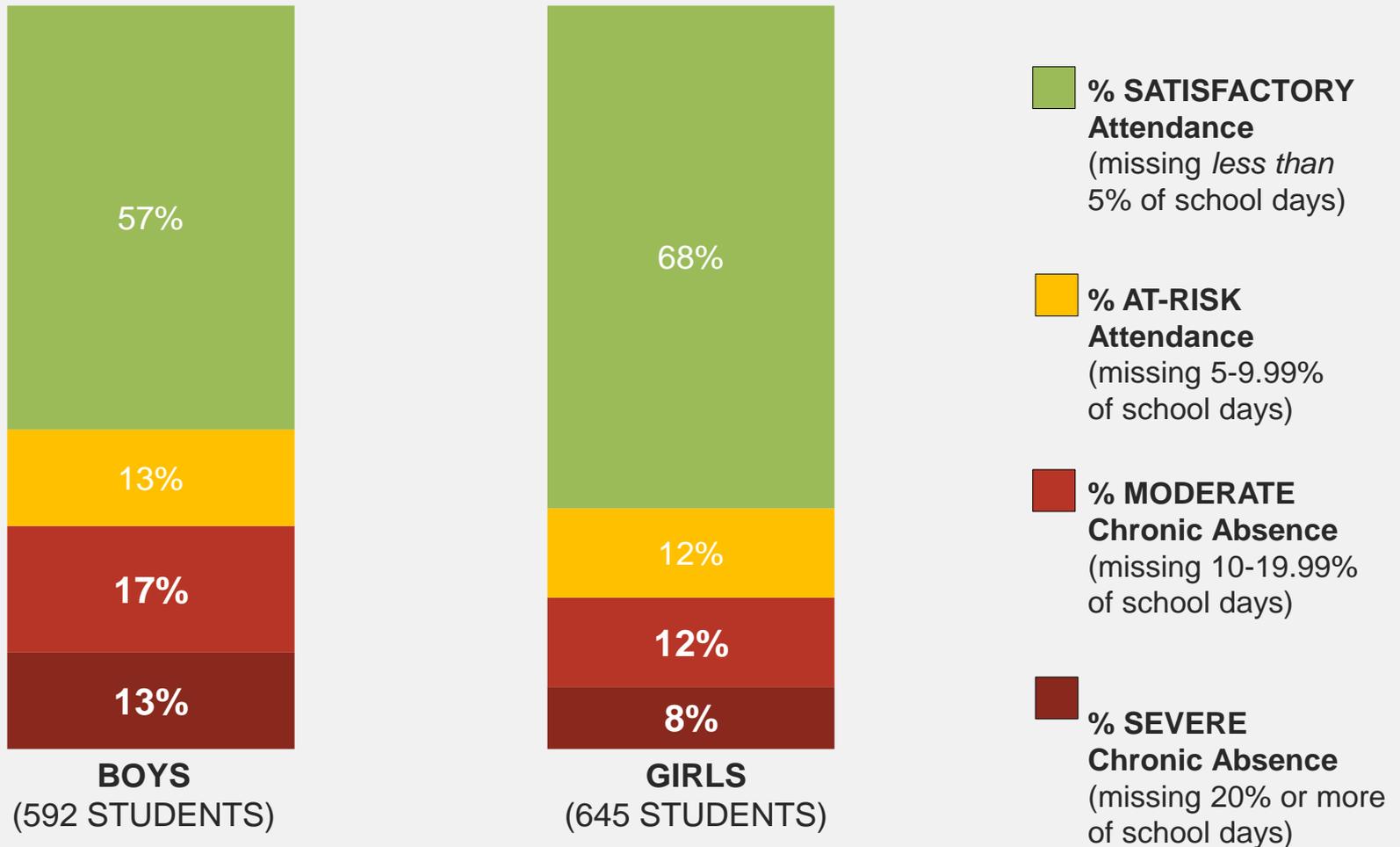
Tiered System of Supports For Improving Attendance



Implementing Tier 2 Practices Starts with Understanding **WHO** is absent



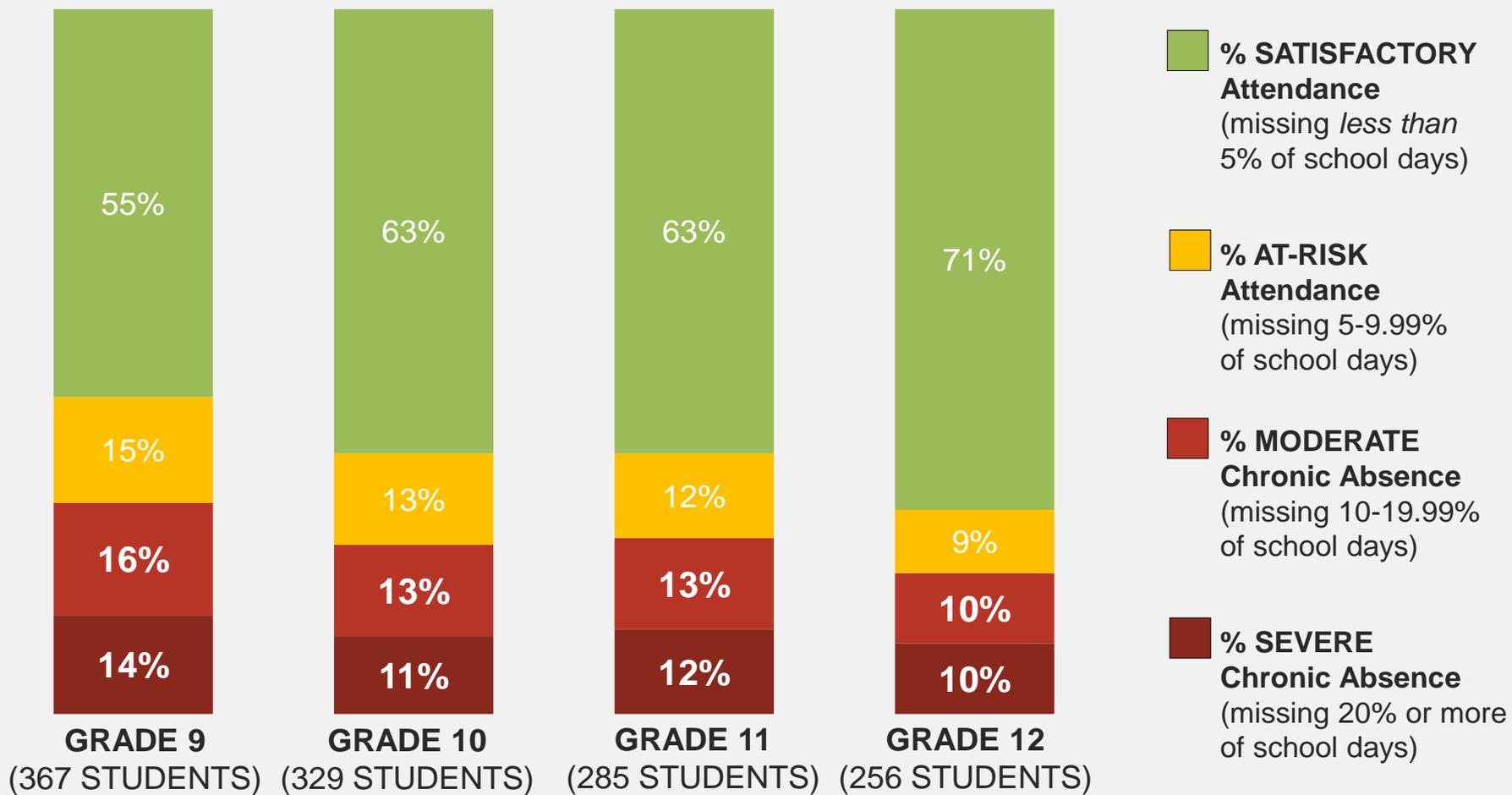
Chronic Absence by Gender



Understanding **WHO** is absent



Chronic Absence by Grade Level



Mission: Graduate Every Day Matters Attendance Conference





Highlights

- *Largest number of participants to date with **375** attendees, representing **59** schools and **11** school districts from across the state.*
- **82%** of participants reported that they left the conference with *useful tools or resources, new information, and a clear action plan*
- **76%** of participants *demonstrated knowledge of the research-based definition of chronic absenteeism.*
- **89%** of participants had *concrete ideas of next steps with their attendance team*



Recommendations

Recommendations from the Mission: Graduate High School Graduation Network



- **Update Compulsory School Attendance Law**
 - Focus on prevention
 - Adopt the research-informed definition of chronic absence
 - Provide resources for data system improvement
 - Promote data-informed interventions utilizing a tiered improvement system
- **Champion Promising School-Level Strategies**
 - Help schools collect actionable data
 - Support positive messaging and family engagement
 - Expand engaging educational programs (in school and out of school)
 - Expand support services that address student needs
 - Promote effective & consistent discipline practices
- **Demonstrate a Commitment to Equity, Diversity, & Inclusion**

For More Information



Angelo J. Gonzales, Ph.D.

angelo.gonzales@uwcnm.org

505-245-1729



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