



BIBB COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT

EMPOWERED TO LEARN, LEAD, INNOVATE AND SERVE

# Chronic Absenteeism

## -Solutions, Challenges, Next Steps-

**Dan A. Sims, Ed.D.**  
*Proud Superintendent*  
**August 7, 2025**



# OUR MISSION

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**The Bibb County School District maximizes student achievement and social-emotional well-being by building a sense of community in safe, equitable learning environments.**

# OUR VISION

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**Students are empowered to learn, lead, innovate and serve as productive and caring citizens within their chosen paths of success.**



# OUR GOALS

- Student Achievement
- Staff Effectiveness
- Stakeholder Engagement

# OUR GUIDING PRINCIPLES

- Personalized Learning
- Collaboration
- Engagement
- Safety
- Effective Leadership



# 4ME

## LEARNER OUTCOMES



Each student will graduate *empowered* to make a well-informed decision about their next step. They will learn about themselves as they *engage* in rigorous content and gain *exposure* through personalized learning *experiences*, thereby *enlightening* them to choose their most meaningful pathway.

MATCHED AND  
ENROLLED

MOTIVATED TO  
ENLIST

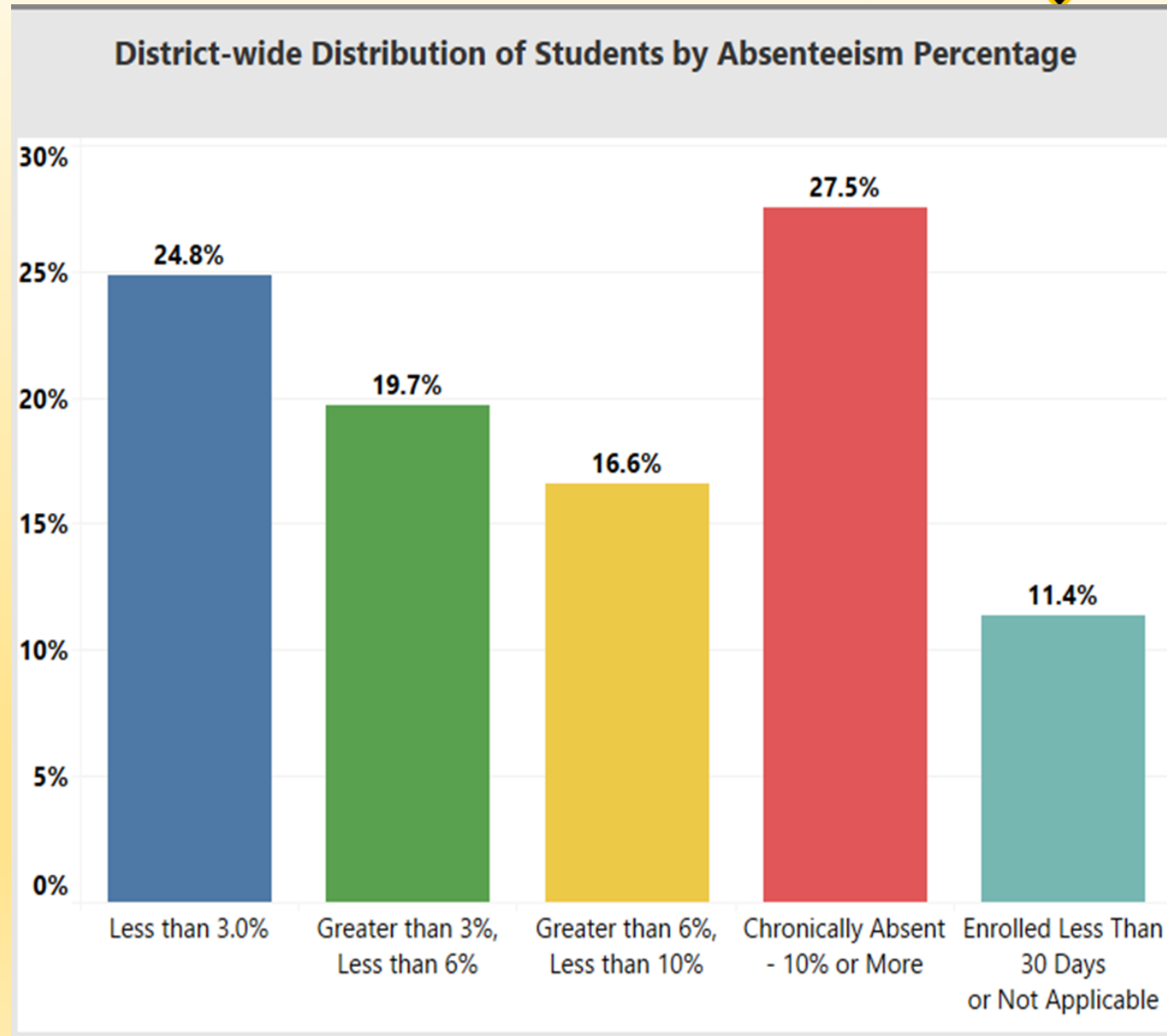
MOLDED FOR  
ENTREPRENEURSHIP

MEANINGFULLY  
EMPLOYED

# Chronic Absenteeism in Bibb



- School Year 2024-25
  - 27.5% Chronic Absenteeism Rate
- School Year 2023-24
  - 30.4% Chronic Absenteeism Rate
- **\*62% of chronically absent students in 23-24 continued to be chronically absent in 24-25**



# What's working? Most beneficial?



- **Breakthrough Teams**
  - Check-in system for students while present
  - Promotion of relationships with caring adults to encourage school attendance
  - Daily monitoring of attendance
  - *Identification of barriers*
- **PBIS and Leader In Me**
  - Education on the importance of attendance and impact on achievement
- **Truancy Task Force**
  - Multi-disciplinary approach involving community stakeholders
  - Focus on families exhibiting patterns of school absenteeism
- **School-Level Attendance Teams**
- **Attendance Post Cards**

Days missed this week

Days missed so far this year

8+ Days  
Urgent- Call us!

6 Days  
3 Months of lost learning

4 Days  
2 Months of lost learning

2 Days  
Try to keep it here

0 Days  
Keep it here

Every student matters.

Every day counts.

missed lessons about \_\_\_\_\_

in class on \_\_\_\_\_.

The classroom is the best place to learn these lessons and missed days can lead to students *not being promoted.*

I look forward to seeing him/her in school.

Main Phone: (478) \_\_\_\_\_

We are counting on you to get your child to school on time every day.  
Let us know how we can help!

# What has been the impact?

- Increased quality of relationships with students/families
- Improvement in school climate/culture
- Increased awareness and understanding of barriers to attendance
- Fewer disciplinary incidents/suspensions
- Higher academic achievement (*oooooh I wish I could show you something!!!!!!*)



# What has not worked?



- Individual meetings with parents
  - Lack of attendance/engagement in this process\*
- Engaging middle/high school-level families when students are disengaged for various reasons
- Interventions that do not address barriers (Individual, Family, School-Based, Community-related)
  - Access to mental health supports
  - Transiency and homelessness
  - Health-related issues (Student/Family)
  - Academic struggles/Fear of failure
  - Bullying
  - Lack of reliable transportation

# What has been the impact on staff?



- Creates compassion fatigue for staff (home visits, phone calls, etc.)
  - Home visits, phone calls, etc.
  - Working with same families/students with limited results
- Creates significant disruptions to learning progression
- Increased workloads for staff
- Expanded scope of responsibilities for instructional staff
- Decreased staff morale

# What are potential next steps?



- Implement intensive school-level approach
  - Continue Attendance Review Teams with an emphasis on reviewing data and identifying students on the front end of absenteeism
  - More immediate contact based on data
- Identify students both borderline and chronically absent in previous years (9-18 absences) for early intervention at the beginning of the school year
- Increase support for transportation with walk zone families (emphasis on elementary students); consider vans/buses to assist, especially on inclement weather days

# What are potential next steps?



- Extend access to mental health/health care supports
  - Continue mental health supports available through grants
  - Promote the use of school-based health centers
- Enlist a Truancy Intervention Specialist to address truancy through the lens of an ecological approach
- Develop and collaborate with a Community Attendance Action Team
  - Composed of partners, families, ministers, community members and facilitated by the system

