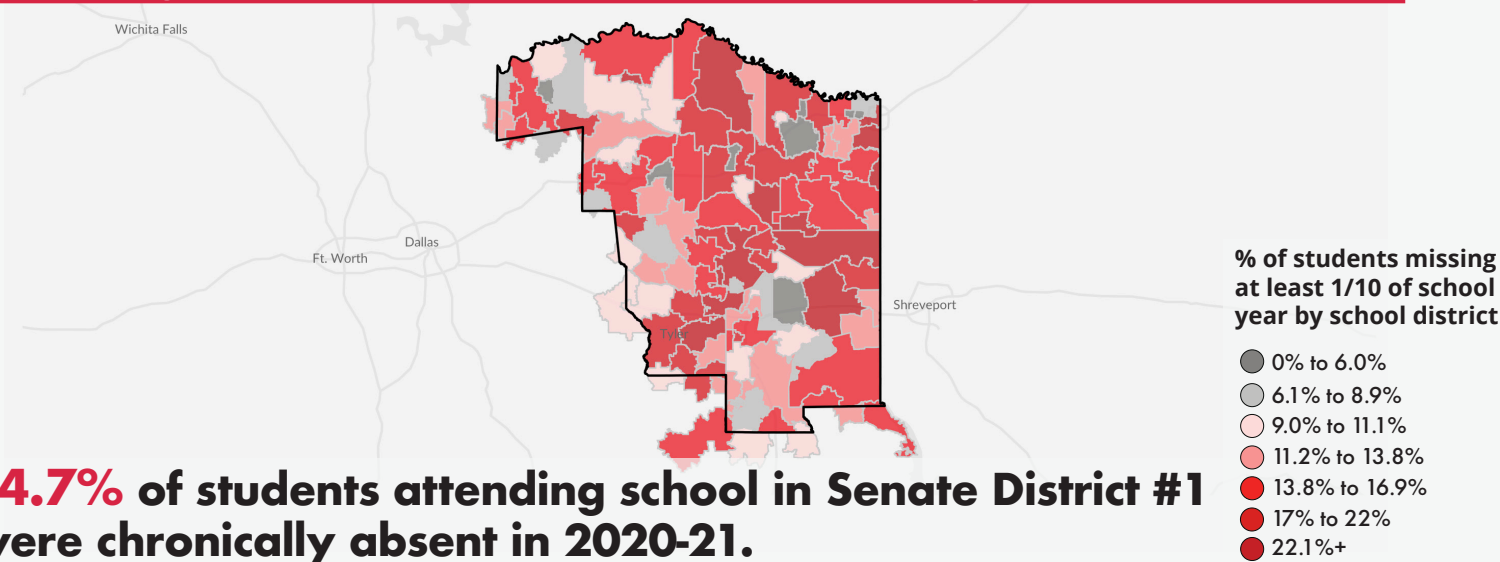


# Defining Chronic Absenteeism and Utilizing Data to Reduce it



Senate District #1



Sen. Bryan Hughes

## CHRONIC ABSENTEEISM

Chronic absenteeism is an early warning sign for educators. A student who is chronically absent in any year between eighth and twelfth grade is **seven times more likely to drop out of school**. For high school students, lack of attendance is a better indicator of dropping out than test scores.

Even before the pandemic, Texas had a problem with chronic absenteeism. **In 2020-21, more than 760,000 students (15%) missed at least one-tenth of their instruction.**

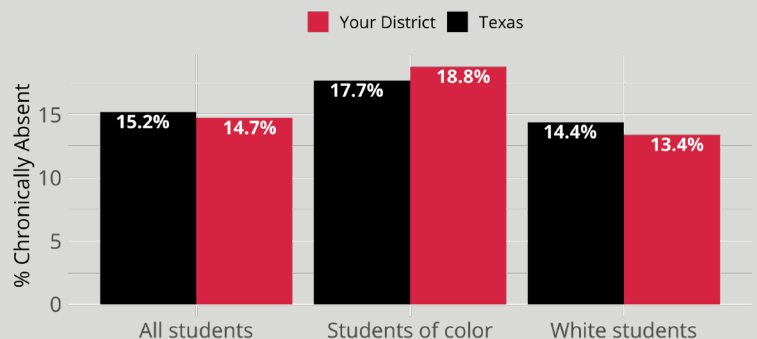
Texas needs better data about chronic absenteeism to address its causes and adequately support at-risk students.

**Source:** Texas Education Agency, 2020-21. Data by race-ethnicity not available for all schools. Summaries include all campuses within each legislative district. Map shows school districts entirely or partially (3%) within each district.

## SENATE DISTRICT #1

During the 2020-21 school year, **14.7%** of students attending school in this district missed at least one-tenth of their instruction – a total of **23,575 students**. This is a 4 percentage point increase from 2018-19.

Students of color were chronically absent at higher rates than white students: **18.8% vs. 13.4%.**



**Note:** Some data may be missing due to TEA's data masking rules.

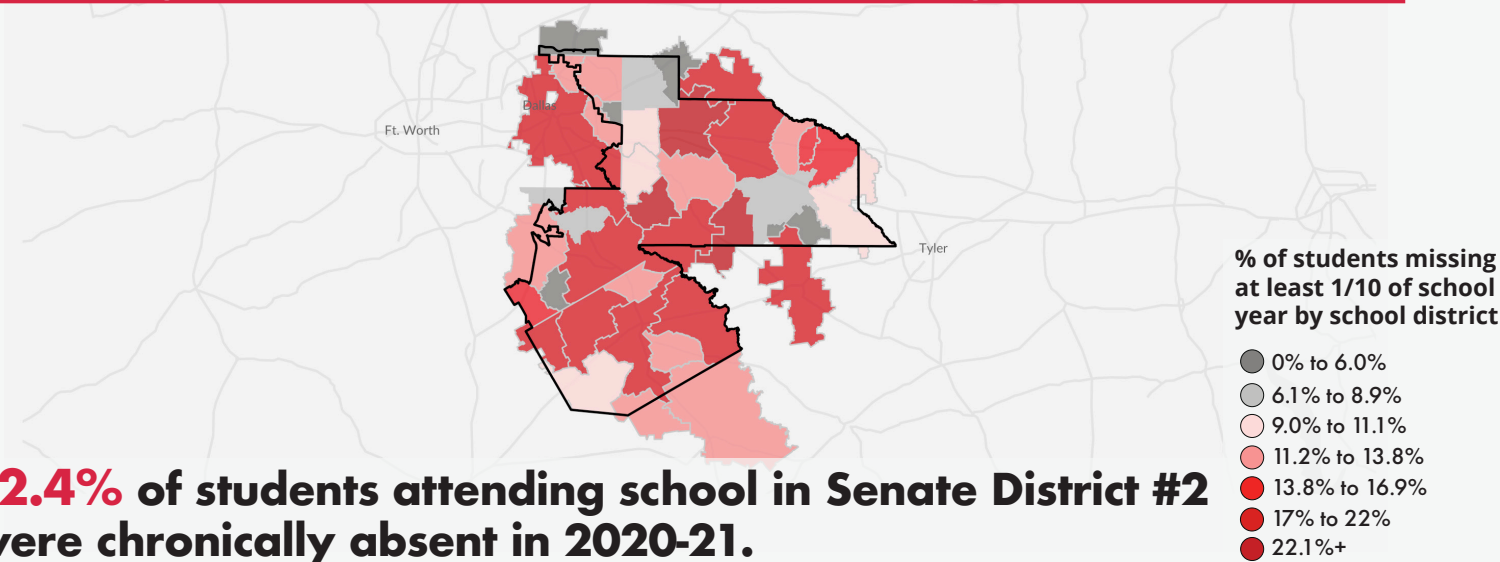
## POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS

The pandemic exacerbated chronic absenteeism. More students faced new challenges and educational disruptions. **Yet, Texas does not currently define chronic absenteeism.**

CHILDREN AT RISK recommends the following policies:

- Define chronic absenteeism in the Texas Education code: "A student who misses 10% or more of instructional time within an academic year for any reason is chronically absent."
- Add chronic absenteeism to the "at risk" category.
- Require TEA to report chronic absenteeism clearly, consistently, and in an easily accessible format to increase transparency and better target student supports.

# Defining Chronic Absenteeism and Utilizing Data to Reduce it



Senate District #2



Sen. Bob Hall

## CHRONIC ABSENTEEISM

Chronic absenteeism is an early warning sign for educators. A student who is chronically absent in any year between eighth and twelfth grade is **seven times more likely to drop out of school**. For high school students, lack of attendance is a better indicator of dropping out than test scores.

Even before the pandemic, Texas had a problem with chronic absenteeism. In 2020-21, more than 760,000 students (15%) missed at least one-tenth of their instruction.

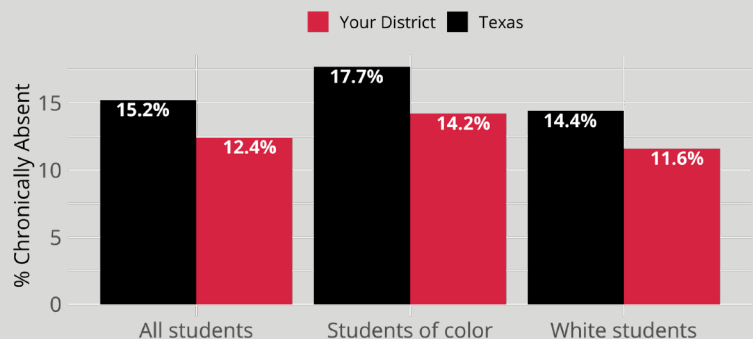
Texas needs better data about chronic absenteeism to address its causes and adequately support at-risk students.

**Source:** Texas Education Agency, 2020-21. Data by race-ethnicity not available for all schools. Summaries include all campuses within each legislative district. Map shows school districts entirely or partially (3%) within each district.

## SENATE DISTRICT #2

During the 2020-21 school year, **12.4%** of students attending school in this district missed at least one-tenth of their instruction – a total of **18,991 students**. This is a 2 percentage point increase from 2018-19.

Students of color were chronically absent at higher rates than white students: **14.2% vs. 11.6%**.



**Note:** Some data may be missing due to TEA's data masking rules.

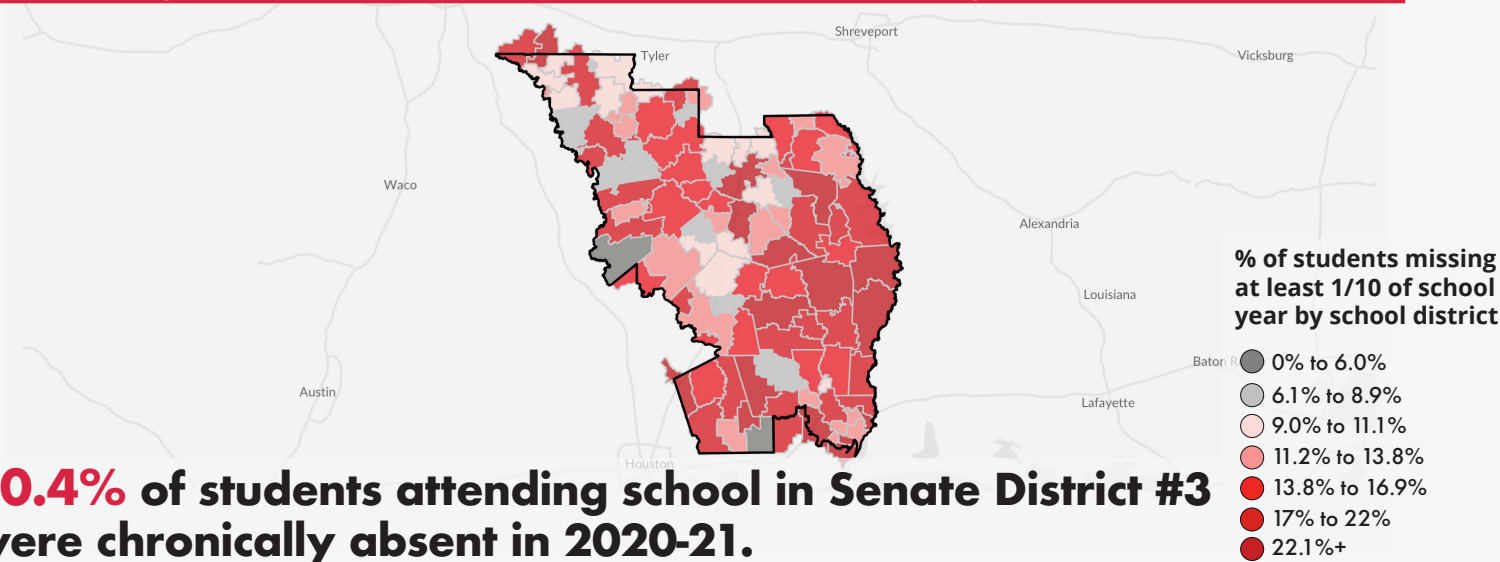
## POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS

The pandemic exacerbated chronic absenteeism. More students faced new challenges and educational disruptions. **Yet, Texas does not currently define chronic absenteeism.**

CHILDREN AT RISK recommends the following policies:

- Define chronic absenteeism in the Texas Education code: "A student who misses 10% or more of instructional time within an academic year for any reason is chronically absent."
- Add chronic absenteeism to the "at risk" category.
- Require TEA to report chronic absenteeism clearly, consistently, and in an easily accessible format to increase transparency and better target student supports.

# Defining Chronic Absenteeism and Utilizing Data to Reduce it



Senate District #3



Sen. Robert Nichols

## CHRONIC ABSENTEEISM

Chronic absenteeism is an early warning sign for educators. A student who is chronically absent in any year between eighth and twelfth grade is **seven times more likely to drop out of school**. For high school students, lack of attendance is a better indicator of dropping out than test scores.

Even before the pandemic, Texas had a problem with chronic absenteeism. In 2020-21, more than 760,000 students (15%) missed at least one-tenth of their instruction.

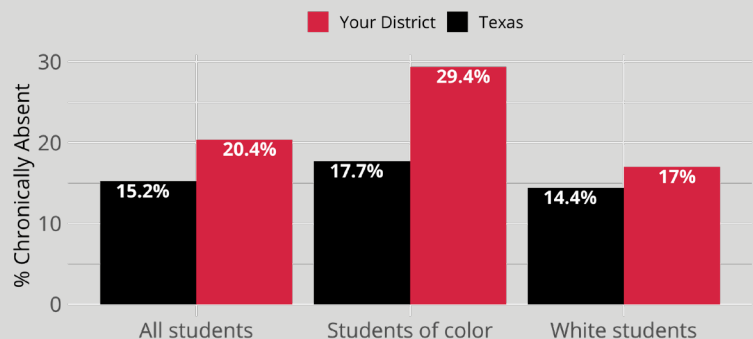
Texas needs better data about chronic absenteeism to address its causes and adequately support at-risk students.

**Source:** Texas Education Agency, 2020-21. Data by race-ethnicity not available for all schools. Summaries include all campuses within each legislative district. Map shows school districts entirely or partially (3%) within each district.

## SENATE DISTRICT #3

During the 2020-21 school year, **20.4%** of students attending school in this district missed at least one-tenth of their instruction – a total of **31,317 students**. This is a 8 percentage point increase from 2018-19.

Students of color were chronically absent at higher rates than white students: **29.4% vs. 17%**.



**Note:** Some data may be missing due to TEA's data masking rules.

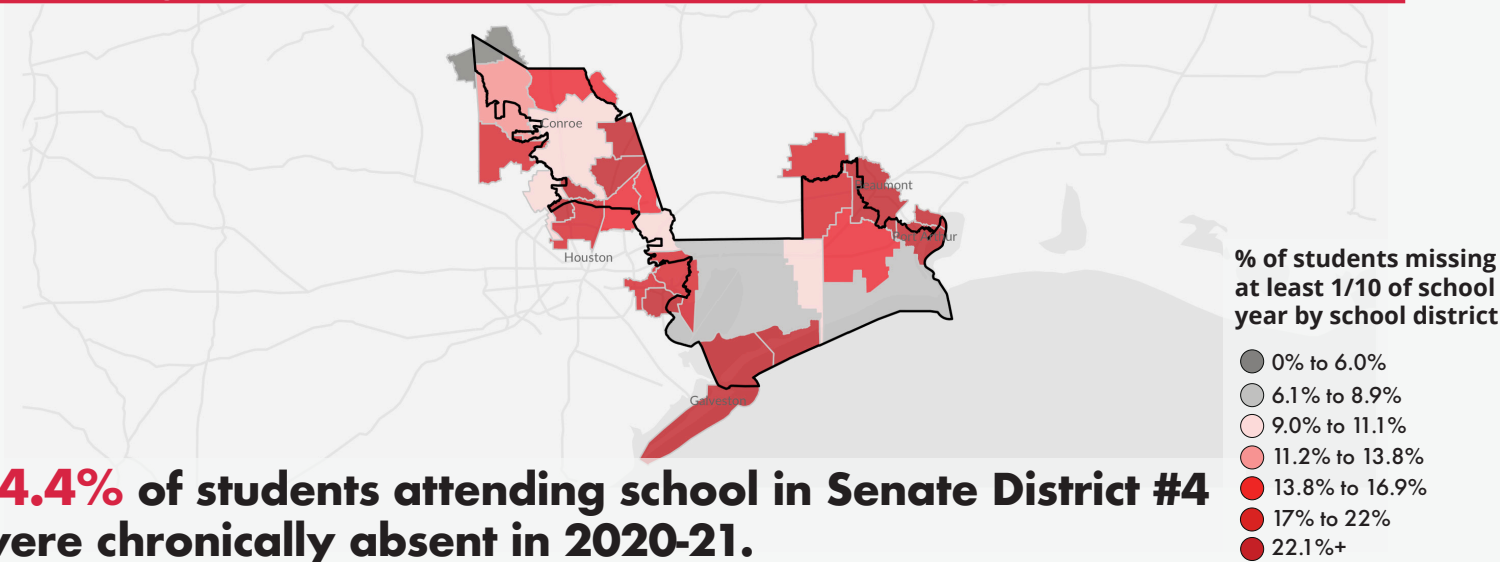
## POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS

The pandemic exacerbated chronic absenteeism. More students faced new challenges and educational disruptions. **Yet, Texas does not currently define chronic absenteeism.**

CHILDREN AT RISK recommends the following policies:

- Define chronic absenteeism in the Texas Education code: "A student who misses 10% or more of instructional time within an academic year for any reason is chronically absent."
- Add chronic absenteeism to the "at risk" category.
- Require TEA to report chronic absenteeism clearly, consistently, and in an easily accessible format to increase transparency and better target student supports.

# Defining Chronic Absenteeism and Utilizing Data to Reduce it



Senate District #4



Sen. Brandon Creighton

## CHRONIC ABSENTEEISM

Chronic absenteeism is an early warning sign for educators. A student who is chronically absent in any year between eighth and twelfth grade is **seven times more likely to drop out of school**. For high school students, lack of attendance is a better indicator of dropping out than test scores.

Even before the pandemic, Texas had a problem with chronic absenteeism. In 2020-21, more than 760,000 students (15%) missed at least one-tenth of their instruction.

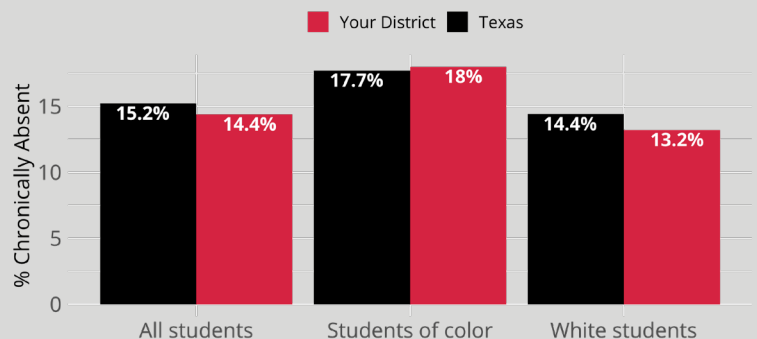
Texas needs better data about chronic absenteeism to address its causes and adequately support at-risk students.

**Source:** Texas Education Agency, 2020-21. Data by race-ethnicity not available for all schools. Summaries include all campuses within each legislative district. Map shows school districts entirely or partially (3%) within each district.

## SENATE DISTRICT #4

During the 2020-21 school year, **14.4%** of students attending school in this district missed at least one-tenth of their instruction – a total of **24,083 students**. This is a 3 percentage point increase from 2018-19.

Students of color were chronically absent at higher rates than white students: **18% vs. 13.2%**.



**Note:** Some data may be missing due to TEA's data masking rules.

## POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS

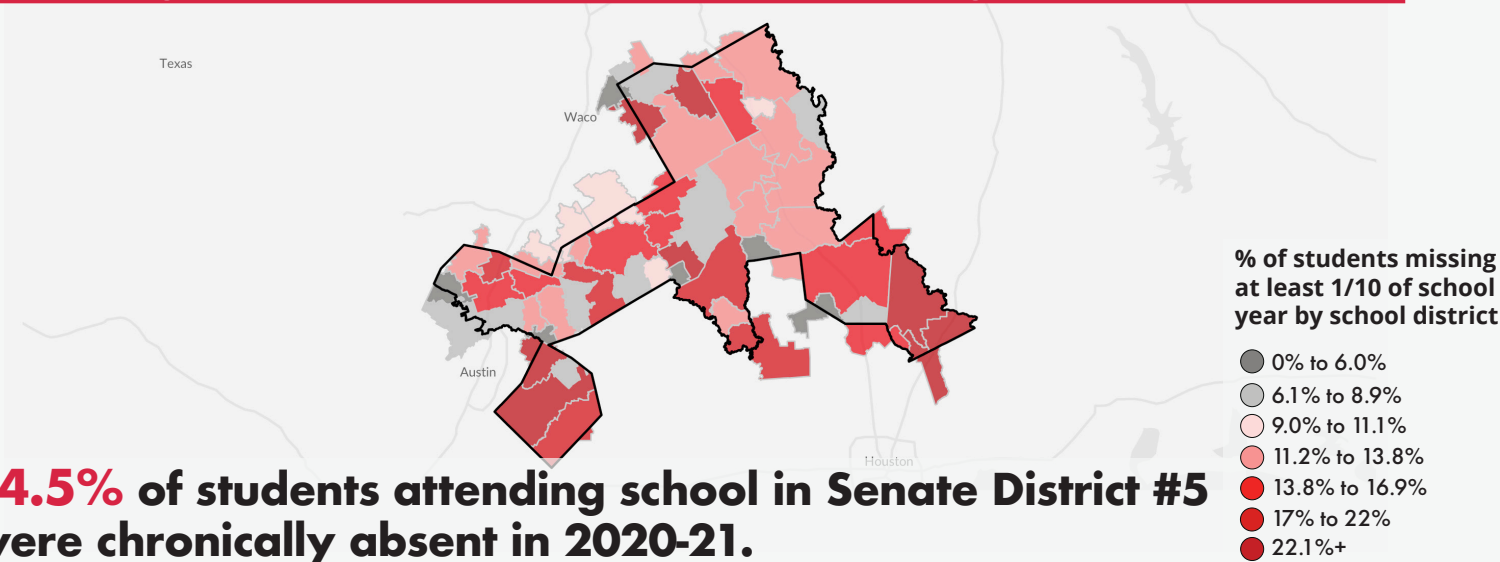
The pandemic exacerbated chronic absenteeism. More students faced new challenges and educational disruptions. **Yet, Texas does not currently define chronic absenteeism.**

CHILDREN AT RISK recommends the following policies:

- Define chronic absenteeism in the Texas Education code: "A student who misses 10% or more of instructional time within an academic year for any reason is chronically absent."
- Add chronic absenteeism to the "at risk" category.
- Require TEA to report chronic absenteeism clearly, consistently, and in an easily accessible format to increase transparency and better target student supports.



# Defining Chronic Absenteeism and Utilizing Data to Reduce it



Senate District #5



Sen. Charles Schwertner

## CHRONIC ABSENTEEISM

Chronic absenteeism is an early warning sign for educators. A student who is chronically absent in any year between eighth and twelfth grade is **seven times more likely to drop out of school**. For high school students, lack of attendance is a better indicator of dropping out than test scores.

Even before the pandemic, Texas had a problem with chronic absenteeism. In 2020-21, more than 760,000 students (15%) missed at least one-tenth of their instruction.

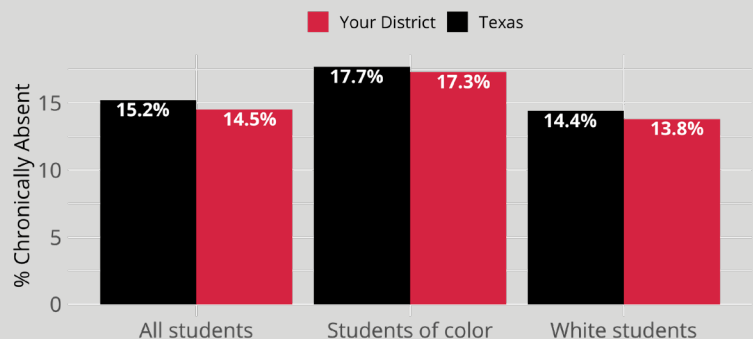
Texas needs better data about chronic absenteeism to address its causes and adequately support at-risk students.

**Source:** Texas Education Agency, 2020-21. Data by race-ethnicity not available for all schools. Summaries include all campuses within each legislative district. Map shows school districts entirely or partially (3%) within each district.

## SENATE DISTRICT #5

During the 2020-21 school year, **14.5%** of students attending school in this district missed at least one-tenth of their instruction – a total of **19,986 students**. This is a 6 percentage point increase from 2018-19.

Students of color were chronically absent at higher rates than white students: **17.3% vs. 13.8%**.



**Note:** Some data may be missing due to TEA's data masking rules.

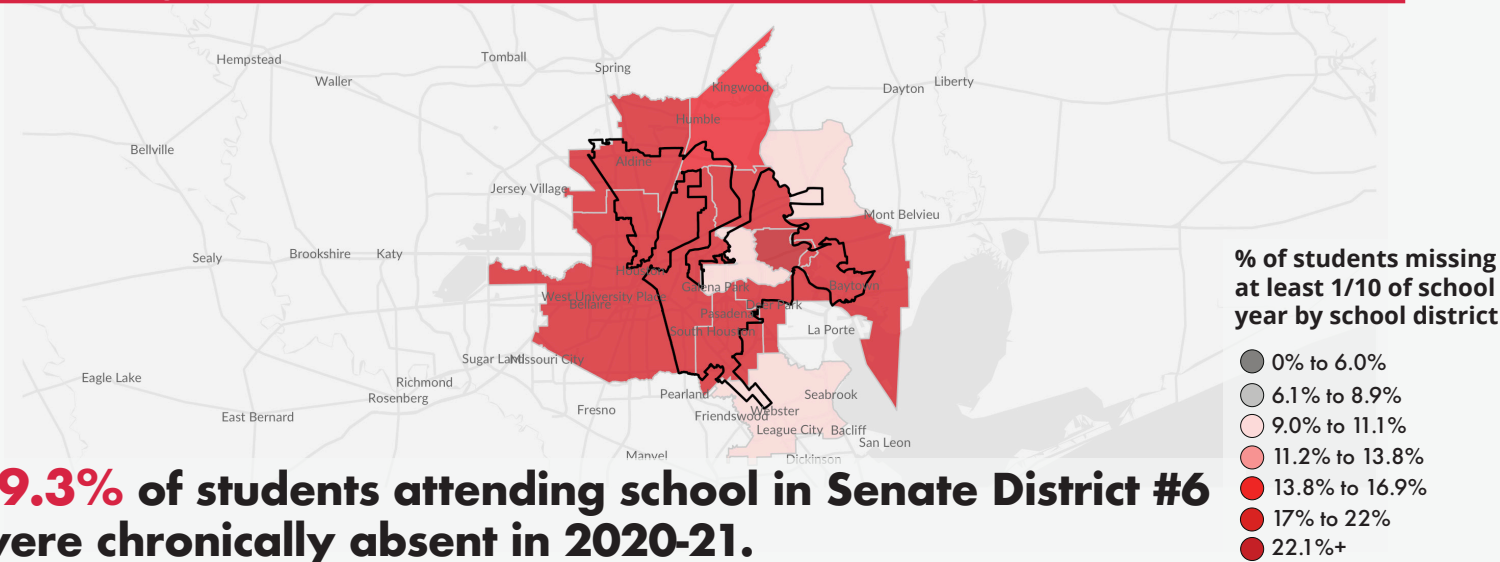
## POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS

The pandemic exacerbated chronic absenteeism. More students faced new challenges and educational disruptions. **Yet, Texas does not currently define chronic absenteeism.**

CHILDREN AT RISK recommends the following policies:

- Define chronic absenteeism in the Texas Education code: "A student who misses 10% or more of instructional time within an academic year for any reason is chronically absent."
- Add chronic absenteeism to the "at risk" category.
- Require TEA to report chronic absenteeism clearly, consistently, and in an easily accessible format to increase transparency and better target student supports.

# Defining Chronic Absenteeism and Utilizing Data to Reduce it



Senate District #6



Sen. Carol Alvarado

## CHRONIC ABSENTEEISM

Chronic absenteeism is an early warning sign for educators. A student who is chronically absent in any year between eighth and twelfth grade is **seven times more likely to drop out of school**. For high school students, lack of attendance is a better indicator of dropping out than test scores.

Even before the pandemic, Texas had a problem with chronic absenteeism. **In 2020-21, more than 760,000 students (15%) missed at least one-tenth of their instruction.**

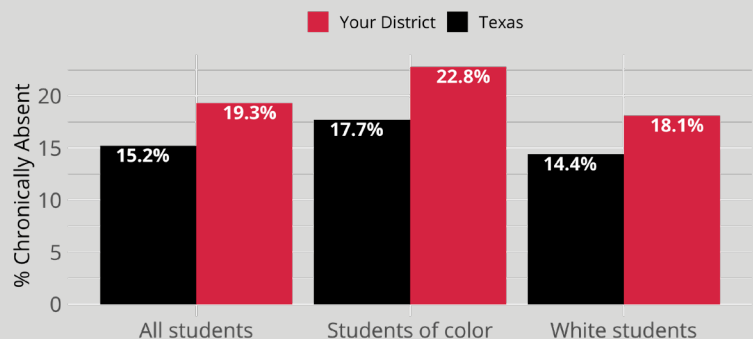
Texas needs better data about chronic absenteeism to address its causes and adequately support at-risk students.

**Source:** Texas Education Agency, 2020-21. Data by race-ethnicity not available for all schools. Summaries include all campuses within each legislative district. Map shows school districts entirely or partially (3%) within each district.

## SENATE DISTRICT #6

During the 2020-21 school year, **19.3%** of students attending school in this district missed at least one-tenth of their instruction – a total of **37,520 students**. This is a 5 percentage point increase from 2018-19.

Students of color were chronically absent at higher rates than white students: **22.8% vs. 18.1%**.



**Note:** Some data may be missing due to TEA's data masking rules.

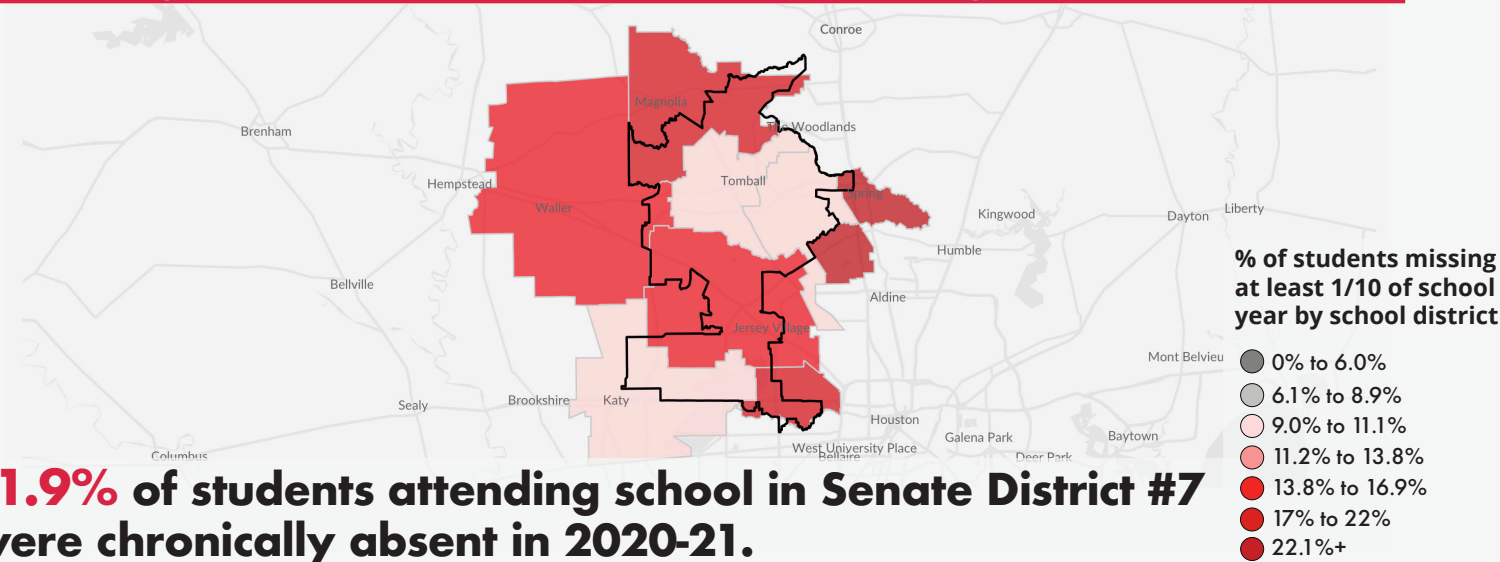
## POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS

The pandemic exacerbated chronic absenteeism. More students faced new challenges and educational disruptions. **Yet, Texas does not currently define chronic absenteeism.**

CHILDREN AT RISK recommends the following policies:

- Define chronic absenteeism in the Texas Education code: "A student who misses 10% or more of instructional time within an academic year for any reason is chronically absent."
- Add chronic absenteeism to the "at risk" category.
- Require TEA to report chronic absenteeism clearly, consistently, and in an easily accessible format to increase transparency and better target student supports.

# Defining Chronic Absenteeism and Utilizing Data to Reduce it



Senate District #7



Sen. Paul Bettencourt

## CHRONIC ABSENTEEISM

Chronic absenteeism is an early warning sign for educators. A student who is chronically absent in any year between eighth and twelfth grade is **seven times more likely to drop out of school**. For high school students, lack of attendance is a better indicator of dropping out than test scores.

Even before the pandemic, Texas had a problem with chronic absenteeism. **In 2020-21, more than 760,000 students (15%) missed at least one-tenth of their instruction.**

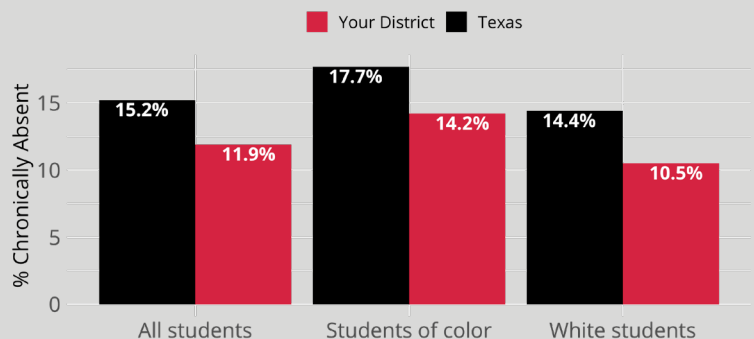
Texas needs better data about chronic absenteeism to address its causes and adequately support at-risk students.

**Source:** Texas Education Agency, 2020-21. Data by race-ethnicity not available for all schools. Summaries include all campuses within each legislative district. Map shows school districts entirely or partially (3%) within each district.

## SENATE DISTRICT #7

During the 2020-21 school year, **11.9%** of students attending school in this district missed at least one-tenth of their instruction – a total of **19,977 students**. This is a 2 percentage point increase from 2018-19.

Students of color were chronically absent at higher rates than white students: **14.2% vs. 10.5%**.



**Note:** Some data may be missing due to TEA's data masking rules.

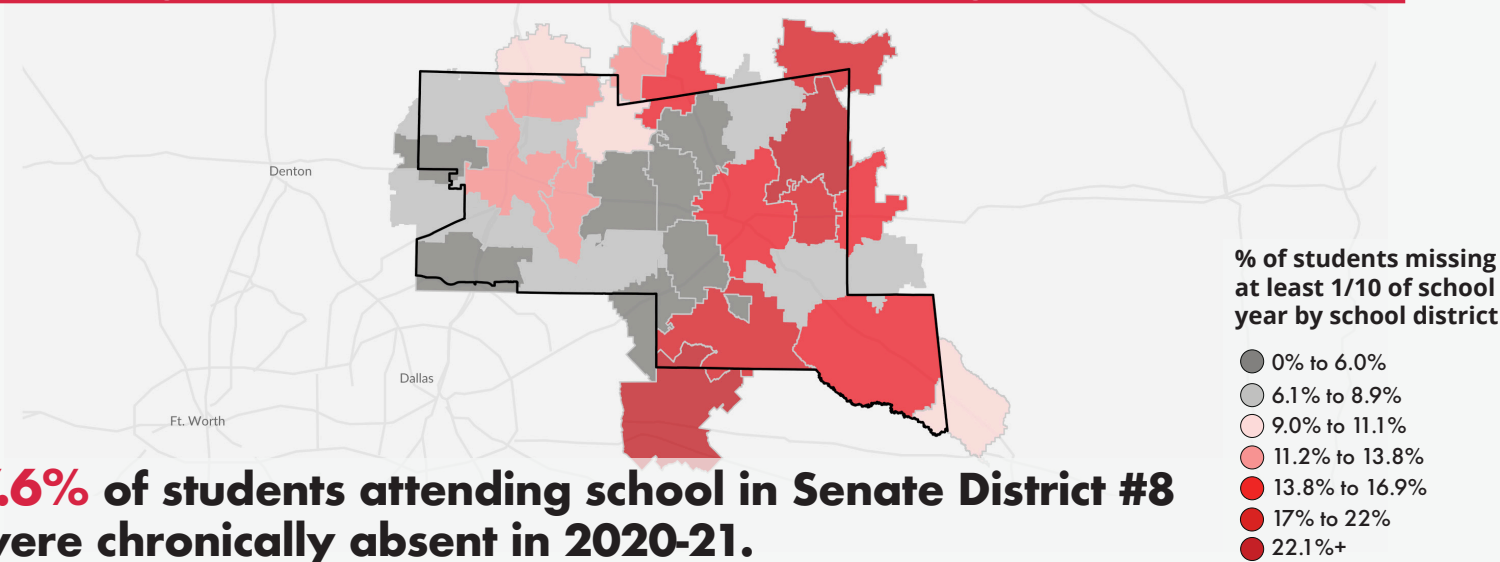
## POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS

The pandemic exacerbated chronic absenteeism. More students faced new challenges and educational disruptions. **Yet, Texas does not currently define chronic absenteeism.**

CHILDREN AT RISK recommends the following policies:

- Define chronic absenteeism in the Texas Education code: "A student who misses 10% or more of instructional time within an academic year for any reason is chronically absent."
- Add chronic absenteeism to the "at risk" category.
- Require TEA to report chronic absenteeism clearly, consistently, and in an easily accessible format to increase transparency and better target student supports.

# Defining Chronic Absenteeism and Utilizing Data to Reduce it



Senate District #8



Sen. Angela Paxton

## CHRONIC ABSENTEEISM

Chronic absenteeism is an early warning sign for educators. A student who is chronically absent in any year between eighth and twelfth grade is **seven times more likely to drop out of school**. For high school students, lack of attendance is a better indicator of dropping out than test scores.

Even before the pandemic, Texas had a problem with chronic absenteeism. In 2020-21, more than 760,000 students (15%) missed at least one-tenth of their instruction.

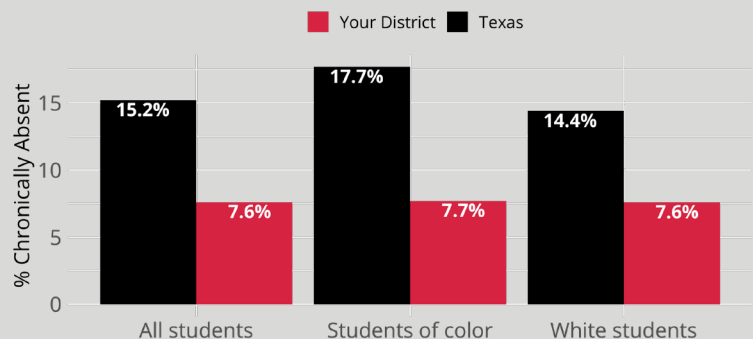
Texas needs better data about chronic absenteeism to address its causes and adequately support at-risk students.

**Source:** Texas Education Agency, 2020-21. Data by race-ethnicity not available for all schools. Summaries include all campuses within each legislative district. Map shows school districts entirely or partially (3%) within each district.

## SENATE DISTRICT #8

During the 2020-21 school year, **7.6%** of students attending school in this district missed at least one-tenth of their instruction – a total of **12,346 students**. This is little change from 2018-19.

Students of color were chronically absent at higher rates than white students: **7.7% vs. 7.6%**.



**Note:** Some data may be missing due to TEA's data masking rules.

## POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS

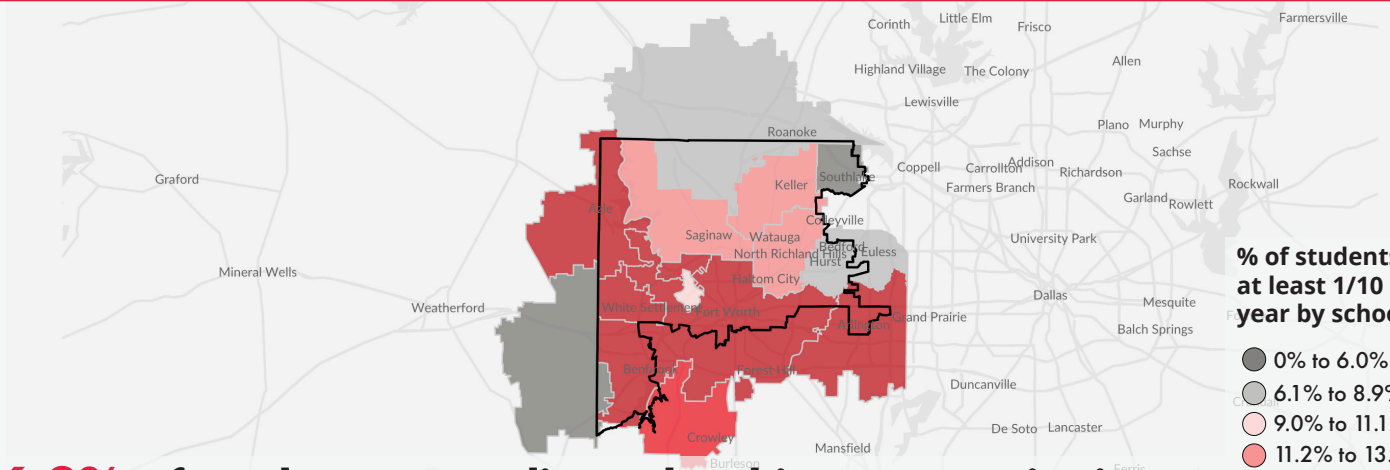
The pandemic exacerbated chronic absenteeism. More students faced new challenges and educational disruptions. **Yet, Texas does not currently define chronic absenteeism.**

CHILDREN AT RISK recommends the following policies:

- Define chronic absenteeism in the Texas Education code: "A student who misses 10% or more of instructional time within an academic year for any reason is chronically absent."
- Add chronic absenteeism to the "at risk" category.
- Require TEA to report chronic absenteeism clearly, consistently, and in an easily accessible format to increase transparency and better target student supports.



# Defining Chronic Absenteeism and Utilizing Data to Reduce it



**16.2%** of students attending school in **Senate District #9** were chronically absent in 2020-21.



**Senate District #9**



**Sen. Kelly Hancock**

## CHRONIC ABSENTEEISM

Chronic absenteeism is an early warning sign for educators. A student who is chronically absent in any year between eighth and twelfth grade is **seven times more likely to drop out of school**. For high school students, lack of attendance is a better indicator of dropping out than test scores.

Even before the pandemic, Texas had a problem with chronic absenteeism. **In 2020-21, more than 760,000 students (15%) missed at least one-tenth of their instruction.**

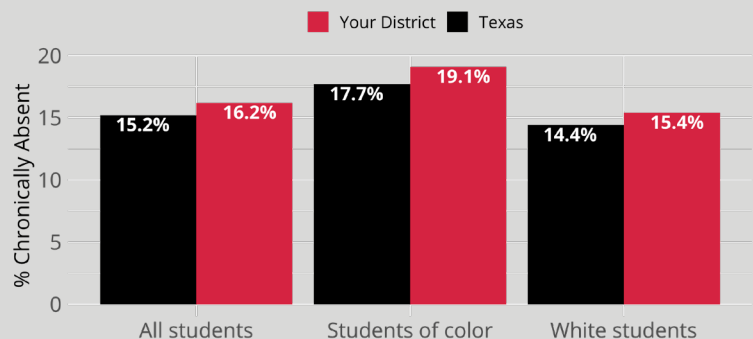
Texas needs better data about chronic absenteeism to address its causes and adequately support at-risk students.

**Source:** Texas Education Agency, 2020-21. Data by race-ethnicity not available for all schools. Summaries include all campuses within each legislative district. Map shows school districts entirely or partially (3%) within each district.

## SENATE DISTRICT #9

During the 2020-21 school year, **16.2%** of students attending school in this district missed at least one-tenth of their instruction – a total of **27,634 students**. This is a 5 percentage point increase from 2018-19.

Students of color were chronically absent at higher rates than white students: **19.1% vs. 15.4%**.



**Note:** Some data may be missing due to TEA's data masking rules.

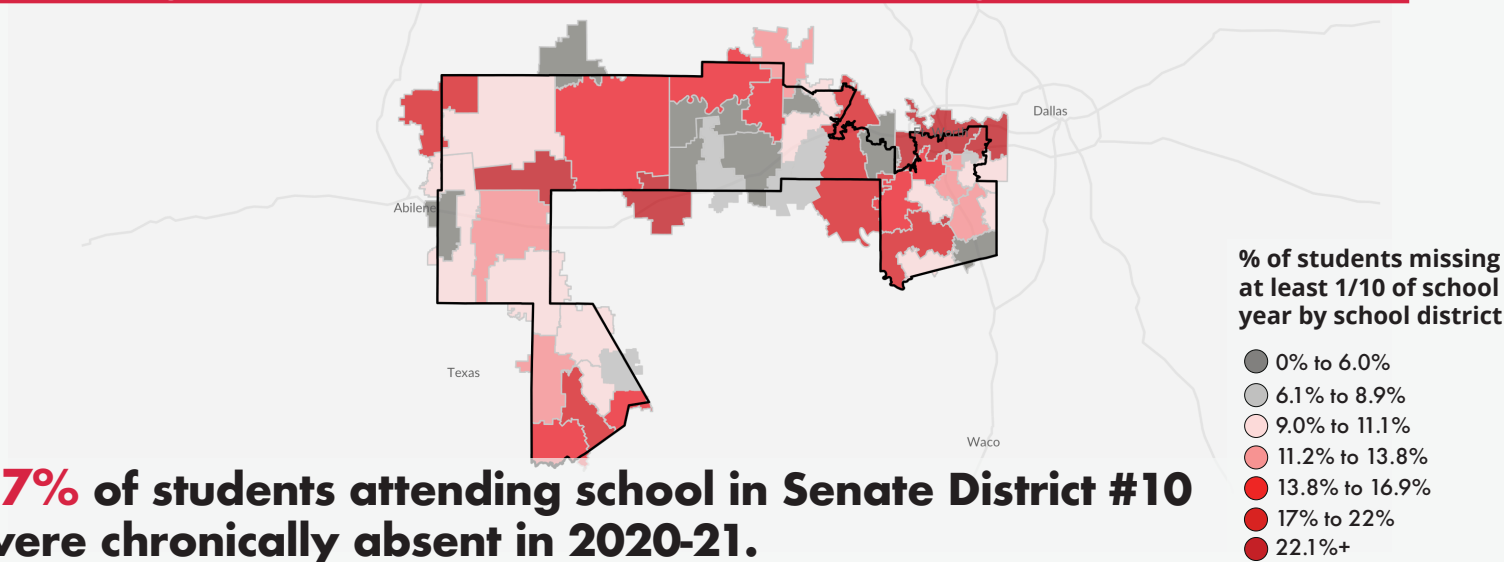
## POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS

The pandemic exacerbated chronic absenteeism. More students faced new challenges and educational disruptions. **Yet, Texas does not currently define chronic absenteeism.**

CHILDREN AT RISK recommends the following policies:

- Define chronic absenteeism in the Texas Education code: "A student who misses 10% or more of instructional time within an academic year for any reason is chronically absent."
- Add chronic absenteeism to the "at risk" category.
- Require TEA to report chronic absenteeism clearly, consistently, and in an easily accessible format to increase transparency and better target student supports.

# Defining Chronic Absenteeism and Utilizing Data to Reduce it



Senate District #10



Sen. Phil King

## CHRONIC ABSENTEEISM

Chronic absenteeism is an early warning sign for educators. A student who is chronically absent in any year between eighth and twelfth grade is **seven times more likely to drop out of school**. For high school students, lack of attendance is a better indicator of dropping out than test scores.

Even before the pandemic, Texas had a problem with chronic absenteeism. **In 2020-21, more than 760,000 students (15%) missed at least one-tenth of their instruction.**

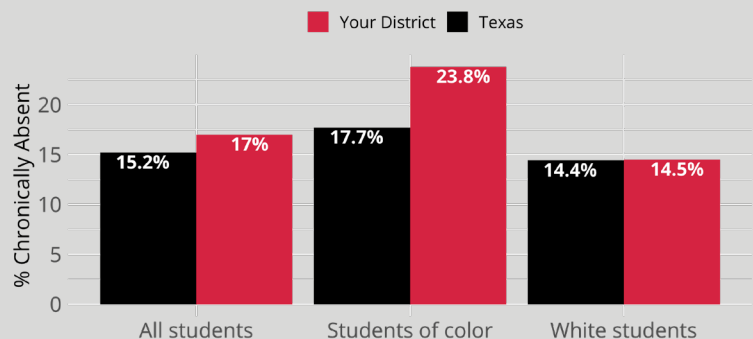
Texas needs better data about chronic absenteeism to address its causes and adequately support at-risk students.

**Source:** Texas Education Agency, 2020-21. Data by race-ethnicity not available for all schools. Summaries include all campuses within each legislative district. Map shows school districts entirely or partially (3%) within each district.

## SENATE DISTRICT #10

During the 2020-21 school year, **17%** of students attending school in this district missed at least one-tenth of their instruction – a total of **23,808 students**. This is a 5 percentage point increase from 2018-19.

Students of color were chronically absent at higher rates than white students: **23.8% vs. 14.5%**.



**Note:** Some data may be missing due to TEA's data masking rules.

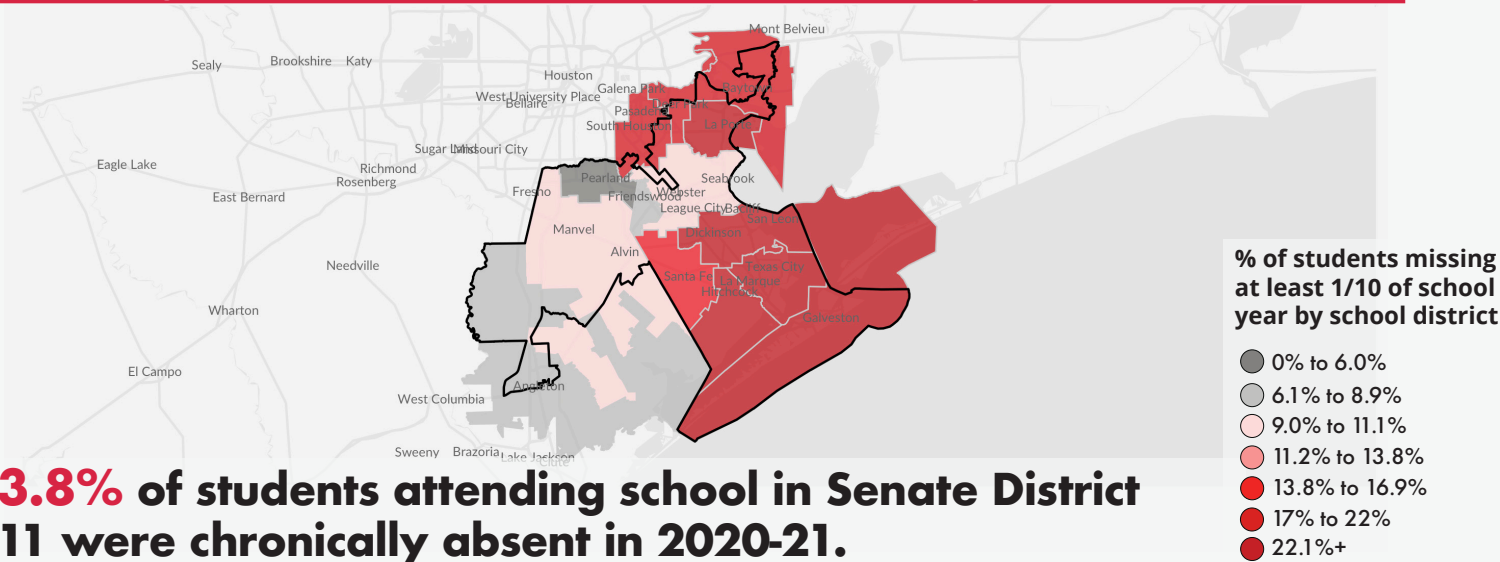
## POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS

The pandemic exacerbated chronic absenteeism. More students faced new challenges and educational disruptions. **Yet, Texas does not currently define chronic absenteeism.**

CHILDREN AT RISK recommends the following policies:

- Define chronic absenteeism in the Texas Education code: "A student who misses 10% or more of instructional time within an academic year for any reason is chronically absent."
- Add chronic absenteeism to the "at risk" category.
- Require TEA to report chronic absenteeism clearly, consistently, and in an easily accessible format to increase transparency and better target student supports.

# Defining Chronic Absenteeism and Utilizing Data to Reduce it



Senate District #11



Sen. Mayes Middleton

## CHRONIC ABSENTEEISM

Chronic absenteeism is an early warning sign for educators. A student who is chronically absent in any year between eighth and twelfth grade is **seven times more likely to drop out of school**. For high school students, lack of attendance is a better indicator of dropping out than test scores.

Even before the pandemic, Texas had a problem with chronic absenteeism. **In 2020-21, more than 760,000 students (15%) missed at least one-tenth of their instruction.**

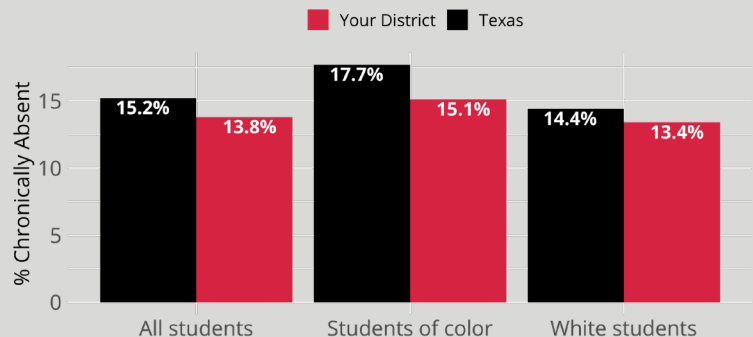
Texas needs better data about chronic absenteeism to address its causes and adequately support at-risk students.

**Source:** Texas Education Agency, 2020-21. Data by race-ethnicity not available for all schools. Summaries include all campuses within each legislative district. Map shows school districts entirely or partially (3%) within each district.

## SENATE DISTRICT #11

During the 2020-21 school year, **13.8%** of students attending school in this district missed at least one-tenth of their instruction – a total of **22,095 students**. This is a 3 percentage point increase from 2018-19.

Students of color were chronically absent at higher rates than white students: **15.1% vs. 13.4%**.



**Note:** Some data may be missing due to TEA's data masking rules.

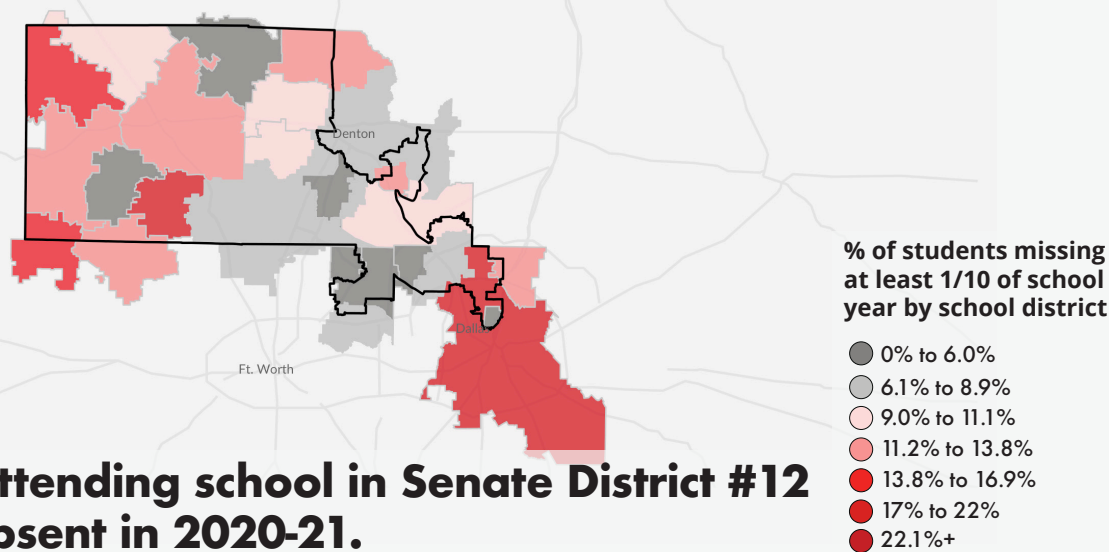
## POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS

The pandemic exacerbated chronic absenteeism. More students faced new challenges and educational disruptions. **Yet, Texas does not currently define chronic absenteeism.**

CHILDREN AT RISK recommends the following policies:

- Define chronic absenteeism in the Texas Education code: "A student who misses 10% or more of instructional time within an academic year for any reason is chronically absent."
- Add chronic absenteeism to the "at risk" category.
- Require TEA to report chronic absenteeism clearly, consistently, and in an easily accessible format to increase transparency and better target student supports.

# Defining Chronic Absenteeism and Utilizing Data to Reduce it



**7.8% of students attending school in Senate District #12 were chronically absent in 2020-21.**



Senate District #12



Sen. Tan Parker

## CHRONIC ABSENTEEISM

Chronic absenteeism is an early warning sign for educators. A student who is chronically absent in any year between eighth and twelfth grade is **seven times more likely to drop out of school**. For high school students, lack of attendance is a better indicator of dropping out than test scores.

Even before the pandemic, Texas had a problem with chronic absenteeism. **In 2020-21, more than 760,000 students (15%) missed at least one-tenth of their instruction.**

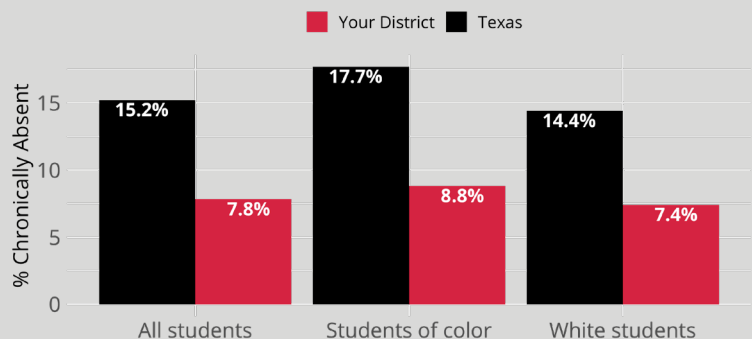
Texas needs better data about chronic absenteeism to address its causes and adequately support at-risk students.

**Source:** Texas Education Agency, 2020-21. Data by race-ethnicity not available for all schools. Summaries include all campuses within each legislative district. Map shows school districts entirely or partially (3%) within each district.

## SENATE DISTRICT #12

During the 2020-21 school year, **7.8%** of students attending school in this district missed at least one-tenth of their instruction – a total of **11,261 students**. This is little change from 2018-19.

Students of color were chronically absent at higher rates than white students: **8.8% vs. 7.4%**.



**Note:** Some data may be missing due to TEA's data masking rules.

## POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS

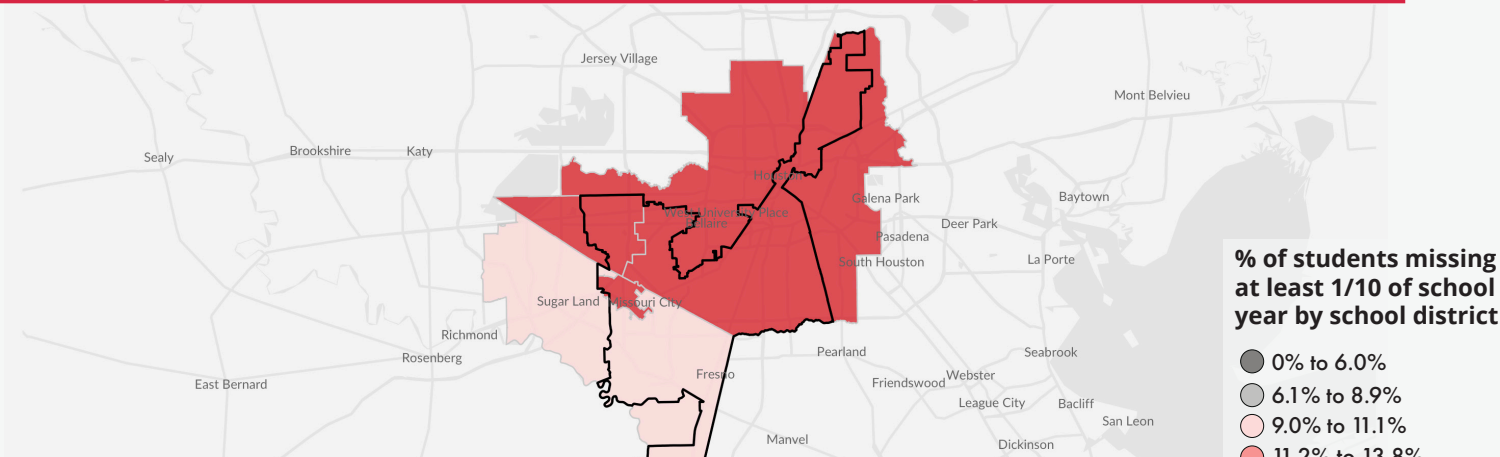
The pandemic exacerbated chronic absenteeism. More students faced new challenges and educational disruptions. **Yet, Texas does not currently define chronic absenteeism.**

CHILDREN AT RISK recommends the following policies:

- Define chronic absenteeism in the Texas Education code: "A student who misses 10% or more of instructional time within an academic year for any reason is chronically absent."
- Add chronic absenteeism to the "at risk" category.
- Require TEA to report chronic absenteeism clearly, consistently, and in an easily accessible format to increase transparency and better target student supports.



# Defining Chronic Absenteeism and Utilizing Data to Reduce it



**23%** of students attending school in Senate District #13 were chronically absent in 2020-21.



Senate District #13



Sen. Borris L. Miles

## CHRONIC ABSENTEEISM

Chronic absenteeism is an early warning sign for educators. A student who is chronically absent in any year between eighth and twelfth grade is **seven times more likely to drop out of school**. For high school students, lack of attendance is a better indicator of dropping out than test scores.

Even before the pandemic, Texas had a problem with chronic absenteeism. In 2020-21, more than 760,000 students (15%) missed at least one-tenth of their instruction.

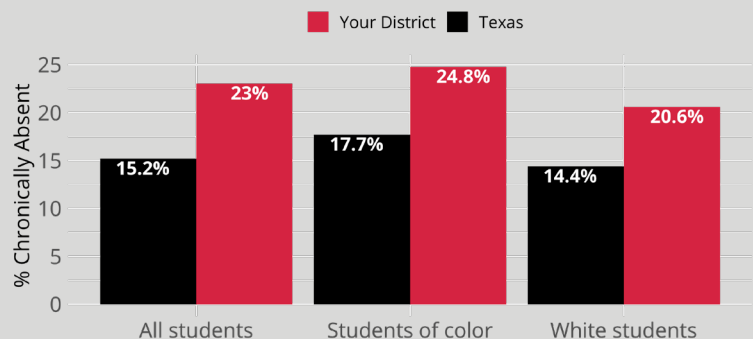
Texas needs better data about chronic absenteeism to address its causes and adequately support at-risk students.

**Source:** Texas Education Agency, 2020-21. Data by race-ethnicity not available for all schools. Summaries include all campuses within each legislative district. Map shows school districts entirely or partially (3%) within each district.

## SENATE DISTRICT #13

During the 2020-21 school year, **23%** of students attending school in this district missed at least one-tenth of their instruction – a total of **33,022 students**. This is a 8 percentage point increase from 2018-19.

Students of color were chronically absent at higher rates than white students: **24.8% vs. 20.6%**.



**Note:** Some data may be missing due to TEA's data masking rules.

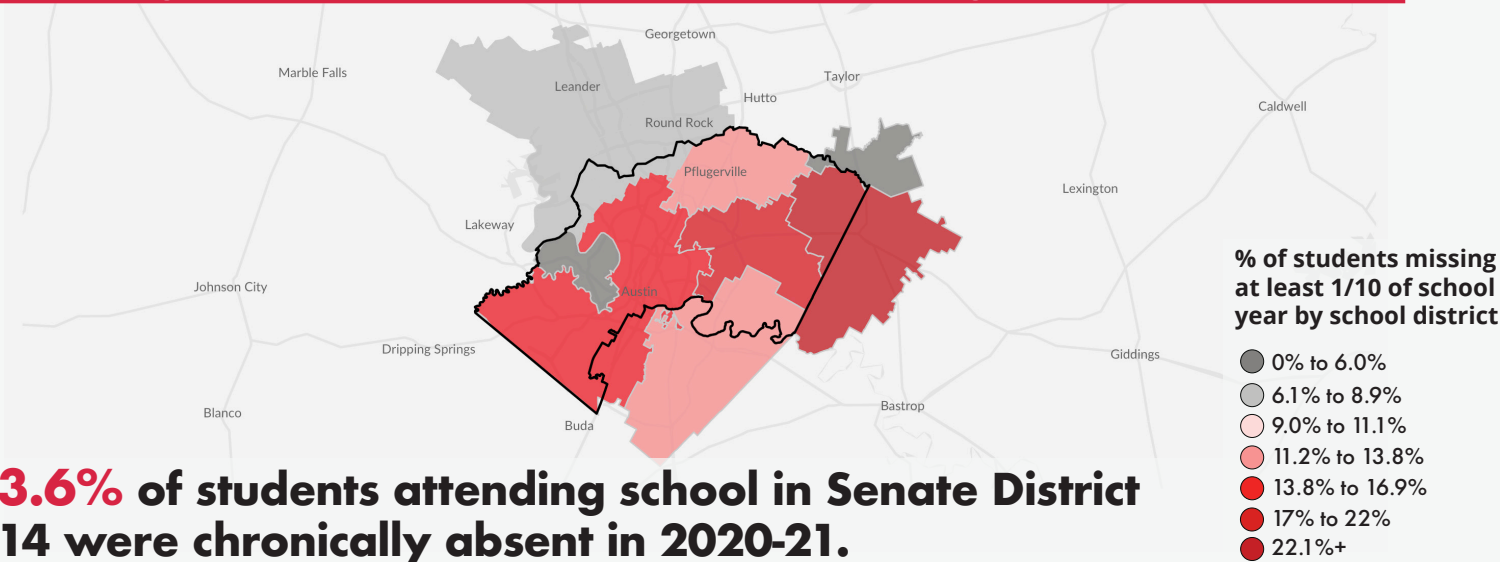
## POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS

The pandemic exacerbated chronic absenteeism. More students faced new challenges and educational disruptions. **Yet, Texas does not currently define chronic absenteeism.**

CHILDREN AT RISK recommends the following policies:

- Define chronic absenteeism in the Texas Education code: "A student who misses 10% or more of instructional time within an academic year for any reason is chronically absent."
- Add chronic absenteeism to the "at risk" category.
- Require TEA to report chronic absenteeism clearly, consistently, and in an easily accessible format to increase transparency and better target student supports.

# Defining Chronic Absenteeism and Utilizing Data to Reduce it



Senate District #14



Sen. Sarah Eckhardt

## CHRONIC ABSENTEEISM

Chronic absenteeism is an early warning sign for educators. A student who is chronically absent in any year between eighth and twelfth grade is **seven times more likely to drop out of school**. For high school students, lack of attendance is a better indicator of dropping out than test scores.

Even before the pandemic, Texas had a problem with chronic absenteeism. **In 2020-21, more than 760,000 students (15%) missed at least one-tenth of their instruction.**

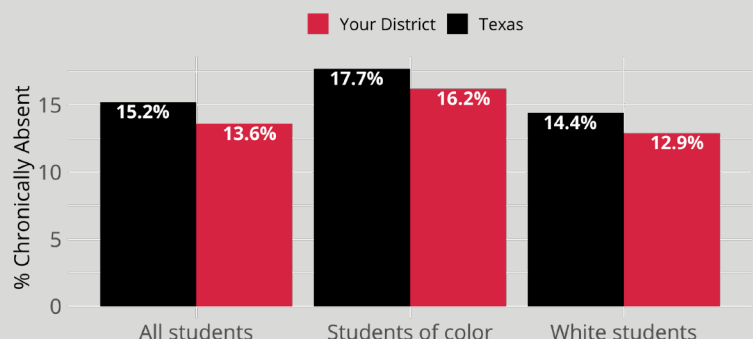
Texas needs better data about chronic absenteeism to address its causes and adequately support at-risk students.

**Source:** Texas Education Agency, 2020-21. Data by race-ethnicity not available for all schools. Summaries include all campuses within each legislative district. Map shows school districts entirely or partially (3%) within each district.

## SENATE DISTRICT #14

During the 2020-21 school year, **13.6%** of students attending school in this district missed at least one-tenth of their instruction – a total of **16,404 students**. This is a 1 percentage point increase from 2018-19.

Students of color were chronically absent at higher rates than white students: **16.2% vs. 12.9%**.



**Note:** Some data may be missing due to TEA's data masking rules.

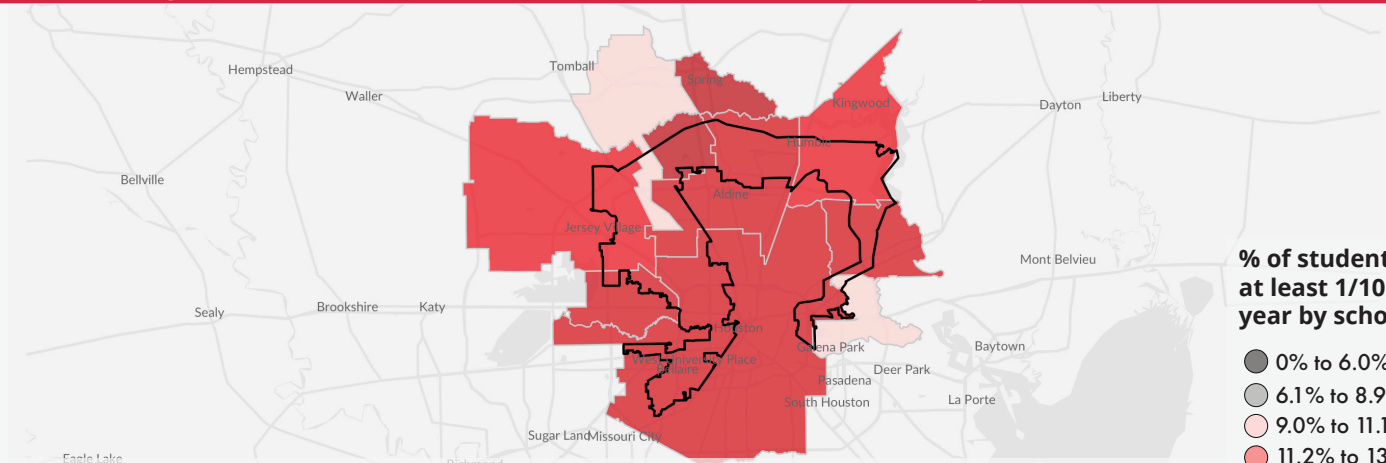
## POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS

The pandemic exacerbated chronic absenteeism. More students faced new challenges and educational disruptions. **Yet, Texas does not currently define chronic absenteeism.**

CHILDREN AT RISK recommends the following policies:

- Define chronic absenteeism in the Texas Education code: "A student who misses 10% or more of instructional time within an academic year for any reason is chronically absent."
- Add chronic absenteeism to the "at risk" category.
- Require TEA to report chronic absenteeism clearly, consistently, and in an easily accessible format to increase transparency and better target student supports.

# Defining Chronic Absenteeism and Utilizing Data to Reduce it



**18% of students attending school in Senate District #15 were chronically absent in 2020-21.**



Senate District #15



Sen. John Whitmire

## CHRONIC ABSENTEEISM

Chronic absenteeism is an early warning sign for educators. A student who is chronically absent in any year between eighth and twelfth grade is **seven times more likely to drop out of school**. For high school students, lack of attendance is a better indicator of dropping out than test scores.

Even before the pandemic, Texas had a problem with chronic absenteeism. **In 2020-21, more than 760,000 students (15%) missed at least one-tenth of their instruction.**

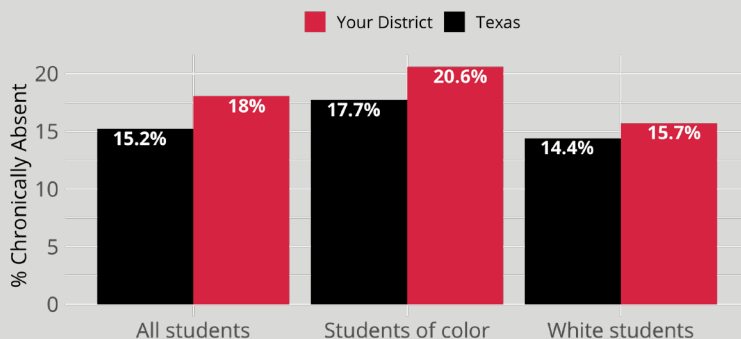
Texas needs better data about chronic absenteeism to address its causes and adequately support at-risk students.

**Source:** Texas Education Agency, 2020-21. Data by race-ethnicity not available for all schools. Summaries include all campuses within each legislative district. Map shows school districts entirely or partially (3%) within each district.

## SENATE DISTRICT #15

During the 2020-21 school year, **18%** of students attending school in this district missed at least one-tenth of their instruction – a total of **28,335 students**. This is a 3 percentage point increase from 2018-19.

Students of color were chronically absent at higher rates than white students: **20.6% vs. 15.7%.**



**Note:** Some data may be missing due to TEA's data masking rules.

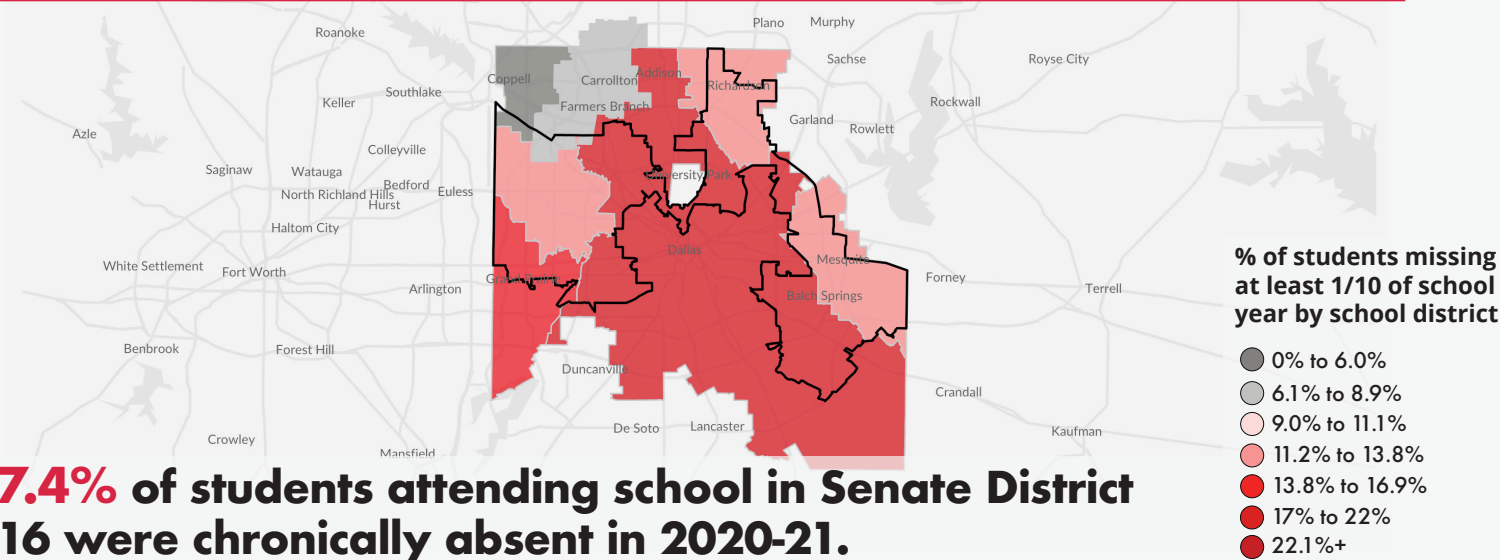
## POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS

The pandemic exacerbated chronic absenteeism. More students faced new challenges and educational disruptions. **Yet, Texas does not currently define chronic absenteeism.**

CHILDREN AT RISK recommends the following policies:

- Define chronic absenteeism in the Texas Education code: "A student who misses 10% or more of instructional time within an academic year for any reason is chronically absent."
- Add chronic absenteeism to the "at risk" category.
- Require TEA to report chronic absenteeism clearly, consistently, and in an easily accessible format to increase transparency and better target student supports.

# Defining Chronic Absenteeism and Utilizing Data to Reduce it



Senate District #16



Sen. Nathan Johnson

## CHRONIC ABSENTEEISM

Chronic absenteeism is an early warning sign for educators. A student who is chronically absent in any year between eighth and twelfth grade is **seven times more likely to drop out of school**. For high school students, lack of attendance is a better indicator of dropping out than test scores.

Even before the pandemic, Texas had a problem with chronic absenteeism. In 2020-21, more than 760,000 students (15%) missed at least one-tenth of their instruction.

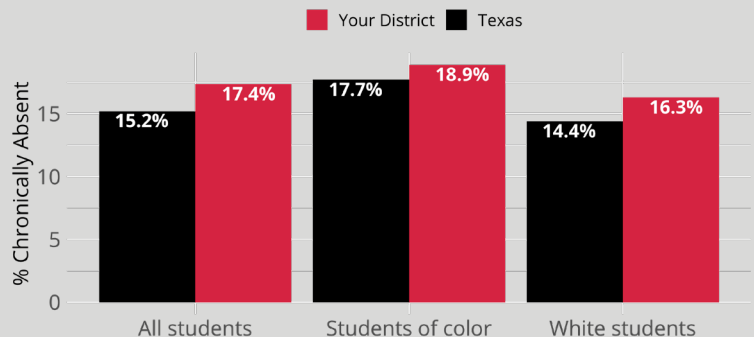
Texas needs better data about chronic absenteeism to address its causes and adequately support at-risk students.

**Source:** Texas Education Agency, 2020-21. Data by race-ethnicity not available for all schools. Summaries include all campuses within each legislative district. Map shows school districts entirely or partially (3%) within each district.

## SENATE DISTRICT #16

During the 2020-21 school year, **17.4%** of students attending school in this district missed at least one-tenth of their instruction – a total of **29,336 students**. This is a 7 percentage point increase from 2018-19.

Students of color were chronically absent at higher rates than white students: **18.9% vs. 16.3%**.



**Note:** Some data may be missing due to TEA's data masking rules.

## POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS

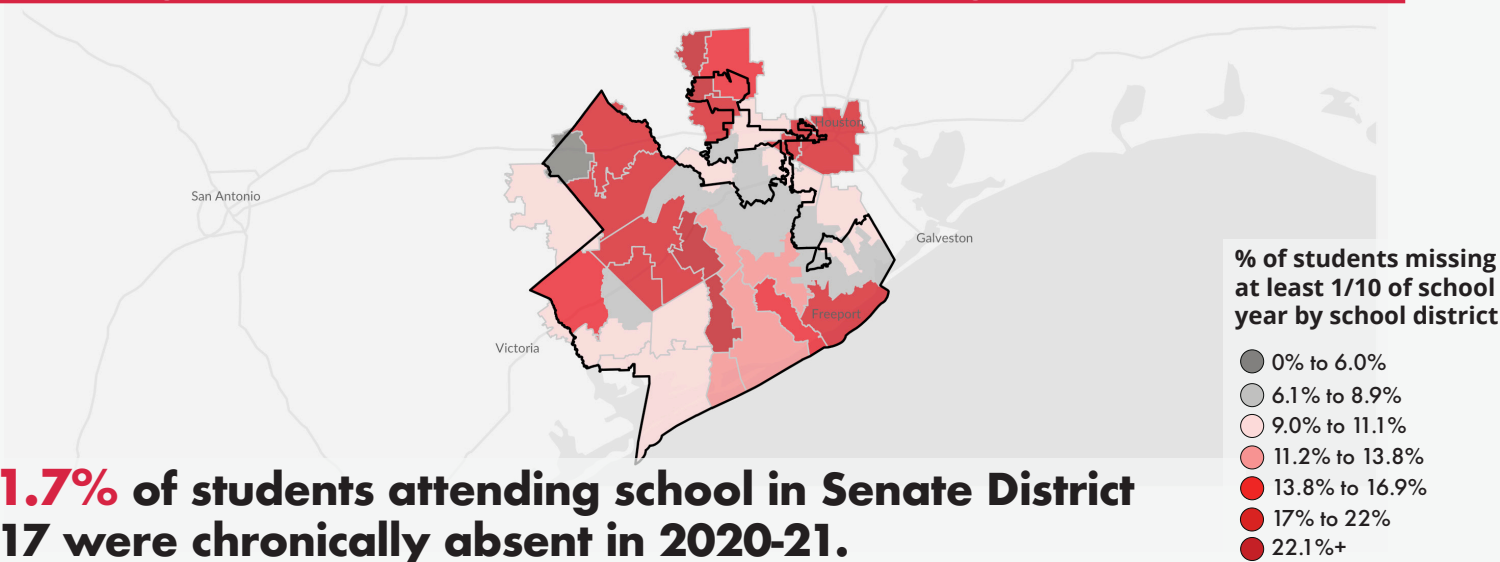
The pandemic exacerbated chronic absenteeism. More students faced new challenges and educational disruptions. **Yet, Texas does not currently define chronic absenteeism.**

CHILDREN AT RISK recommends the following policies:

- Define chronic absenteeism in the Texas Education code: "A student who misses 10% or more of instructional time within an academic year for any reason is chronically absent."
- Add chronic absenteeism to the "at risk" category.
- Require TEA to report chronic absenteeism clearly, consistently, and in an easily accessible format to increase transparency and better target student supports.



# Defining Chronic Absenteeism and Utilizing Data to Reduce it



Senate District #17



Sen. Joan Huffman

## CHRONIC ABSENTEEISM

Chronic absenteeism is an early warning sign for educators. A student who is chronically absent in any year between eighth and twelfth grade is **seven times more likely to drop out of school**. For high school students, lack of attendance is a better indicator of dropping out than test scores.

Even before the pandemic, Texas had a problem with chronic absenteeism. **In 2020-21, more than 760,000 students (15%) missed at least one-tenth of their instruction.**

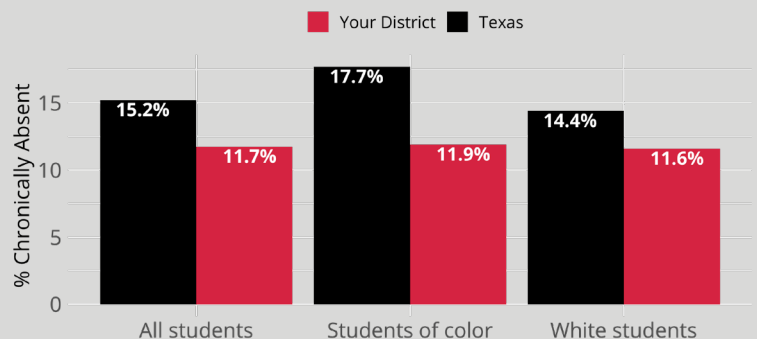
Texas needs better data about chronic absenteeism to address its causes and adequately support at-risk students.

**Source:** Texas Education Agency, 2020-21. Data by race-ethnicity not available for all schools. Summaries include all campuses within each legislative district. Map shows school districts entirely or partially (3%) within each district.

## SENATE DISTRICT #17

During the 2020-21 school year, **11.7%** of students attending school in this district missed at least one-tenth of their instruction – a total of **18,743 students**. This is a 3 percentage point increase from 2018-19.

Students of color were chronically absent at higher rates than white students: **11.9% vs. 11.6%**.



**Note:** Some data may be missing due to TEA's data masking rules.

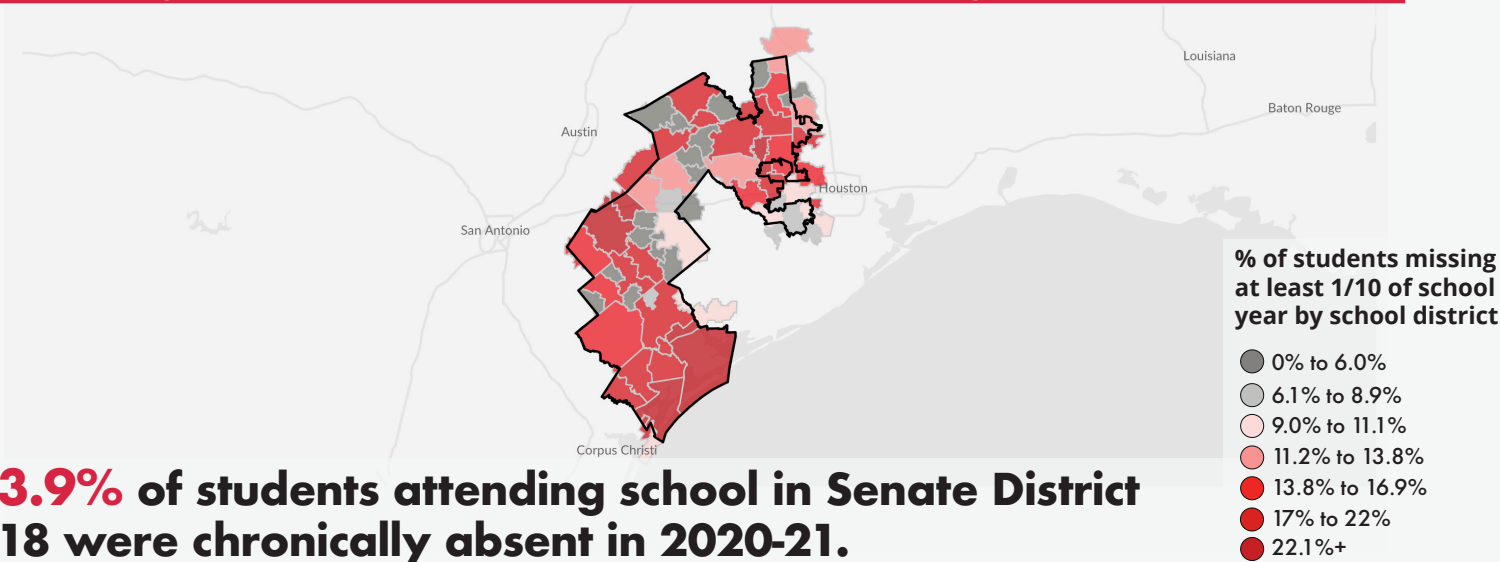
## POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS

The pandemic exacerbated chronic absenteeism. More students faced new challenges and educational disruptions. **Yet, Texas does not currently define chronic absenteeism.**

CHILDREN AT RISK recommends the following policies:

- Define chronic absenteeism in the Texas Education code: "A student who misses 10% or more of instructional time within an academic year for any reason is chronically absent."
- Add chronic absenteeism to the "at risk" category.
- Require TEA to report chronic absenteeism clearly, consistently, and in an easily accessible format to increase transparency and better target student supports.

# Defining Chronic Absenteeism and Utilizing Data to Reduce it



Senate District #18



Sen. Lois Kolkhorst

## CHRONIC ABSENTEEISM

Chronic absenteeism is an early warning sign for educators. A student who is chronically absent in any year between eighth and twelfth grade is **seven times more likely to drop out of school**. For high school students, lack of attendance is a better indicator of dropping out than test scores.

Even before the pandemic, Texas had a problem with chronic absenteeism. **In 2020-21, more than 760,000 students (15%) missed at least one-tenth of their instruction.**

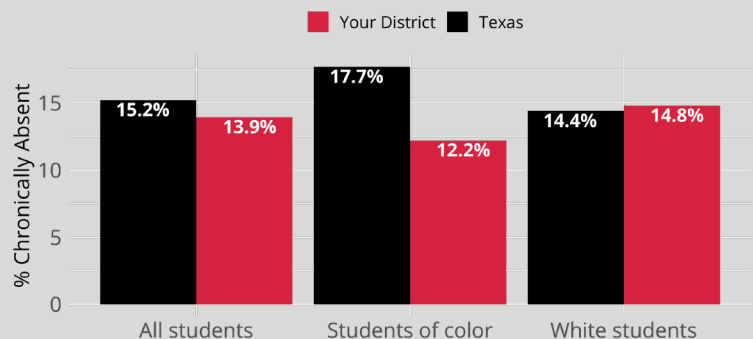
Texas needs better data about chronic absenteeism to address its causes and adequately support at-risk students.

**Source:** Texas Education Agency, 2020-21. Data by race-ethnicity not available for all schools. Summaries include all campuses within each legislative district. Map shows school districts entirely or partially (3%) within each district.

## SENATE DISTRICT #18

During the 2020-21 school year, **13.9%** of students attending school in this district missed at least one-tenth of their instruction – a total of **22,834 students**. This is a 5 percentage point increase from 2018-19.

Students of color were chronically absent at lower rates than white students: **12.2% vs. 14.8%**.



**Note:** Some data may be missing due to TEA's data masking rules.

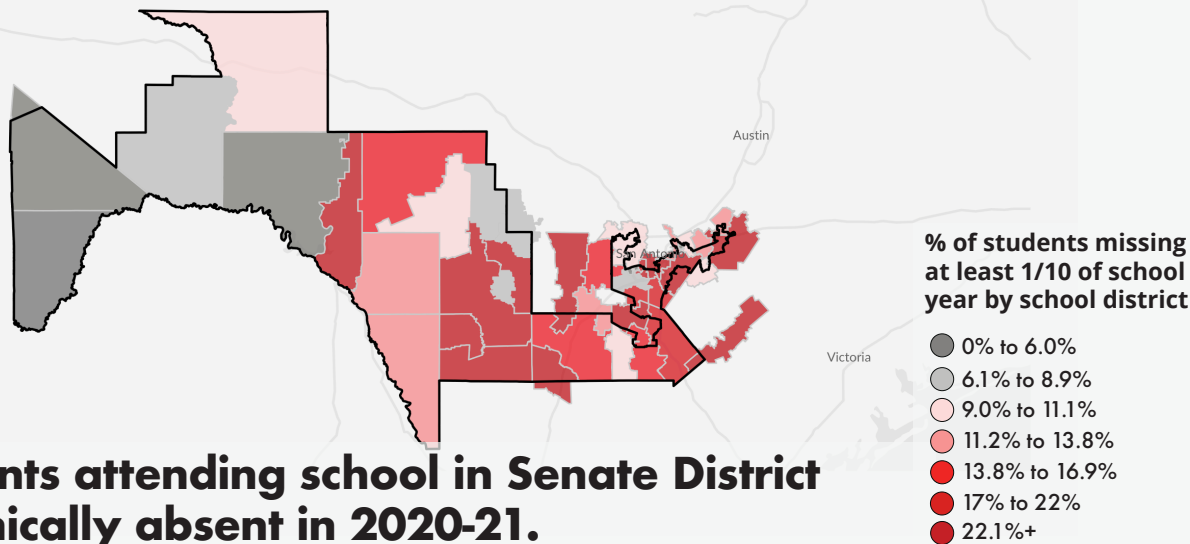
## POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS

The pandemic exacerbated chronic absenteeism. More students faced new challenges and educational disruptions. **Yet, Texas does not currently define chronic absenteeism.**

CHILDREN AT RISK recommends the following policies:

- Define chronic absenteeism in the Texas Education code: "A student who misses 10% or more of instructional time within an academic year for any reason is chronically absent."
- Add chronic absenteeism to the "at risk" category.
- Require TEA to report chronic absenteeism clearly, consistently, and in an easily accessible format to increase transparency and better target student supports.

# Defining Chronic Absenteeism and Utilizing Data to Reduce it



**17.1%** of students attending school in Senate District #19 were chronically absent in 2020-21.



Senate District #19



Sen. Roland Gutierrez

## CHRONIC ABSENTEEISM

Chronic absenteeism is an early warning sign for educators. A student who is chronically absent in any year between eighth and twelfth grade is **seven times more likely to drop out of school**. For high school students, lack of attendance is a better indicator of dropping out than test scores.

Even before the pandemic, Texas had a problem with chronic absenteeism. In 2020-21, more than 760,000 students (15%) missed at least one-tenth of their instruction.

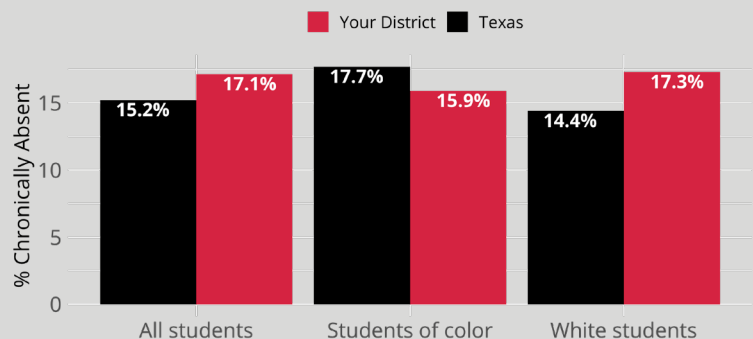
Texas needs better data about chronic absenteeism to address its causes and adequately support at-risk students.

**Source:** Texas Education Agency, 2020-21. Data by race-ethnicity not available for all schools. Summaries include all campuses within each legislative district. Map shows school districts entirely or partially (3%) within each district.

## SENATE DISTRICT #19

During the 2020-21 school year, **17.1%** of students attending school in this district missed at least one-tenth of their instruction – a total of **30,278 students**. This is little change from 2018-19.

Students of color were chronically absent at lower rates than white students: **15.9% vs. 17.3%**.



**Note:** Some data may be missing due to TEA's data masking rules.

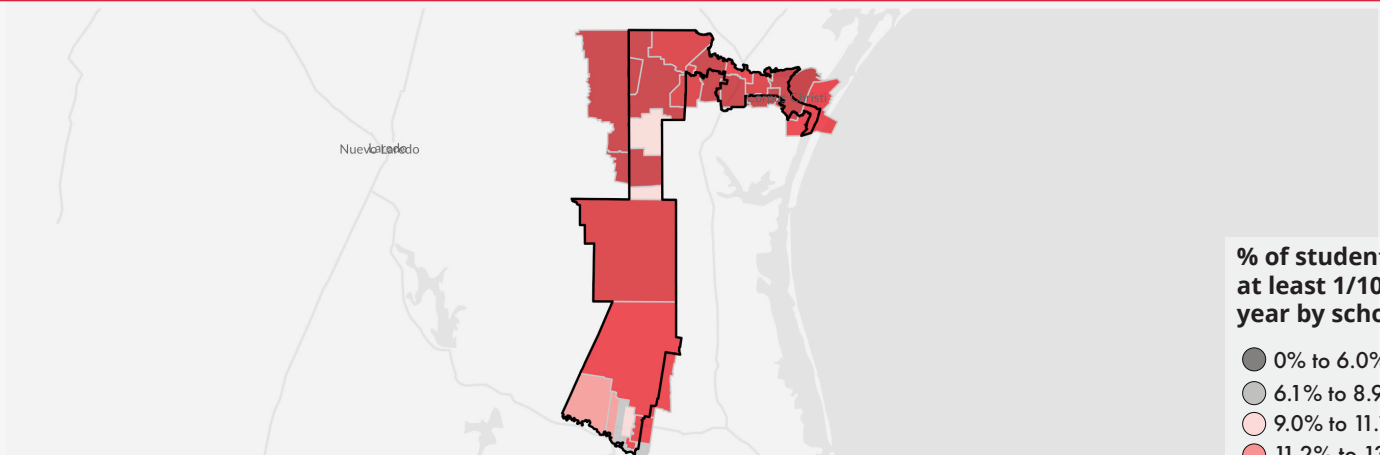
## POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS

The pandemic exacerbated chronic absenteeism. More students faced new challenges and educational disruptions. **Yet, Texas does not currently define chronic absenteeism.**

CHILDREN AT RISK recommends the following policies:

- Define chronic absenteeism in the Texas Education code: "A student who misses 10% or more of instructional time within an academic year for any reason is chronically absent."
- Add chronic absenteeism to the "at risk" category.
- Require TEA to report chronic absenteeism clearly, consistently, and in an easily accessible format to increase transparency and better target student supports.

# Defining Chronic Absenteeism and Utilizing Data to Reduce it



**16.7%** of students attending school in Senate District #20 were chronically absent in 2020-21.



Senate District #20



Sen. Juan "Chuy" Hinojosa

## CHRONIC ABSENTEEISM

Chronic absenteeism is an early warning sign for educators. A student who is chronically absent in any year between eighth and twelfth grade is **seven times more likely to drop out of school**. For high school students, lack of attendance is a better indicator of dropping out than test scores.

Even before the pandemic, Texas had a problem with chronic absenteeism. In 2020-21, more than 760,000 students (15%) missed at least one-tenth of their instruction.

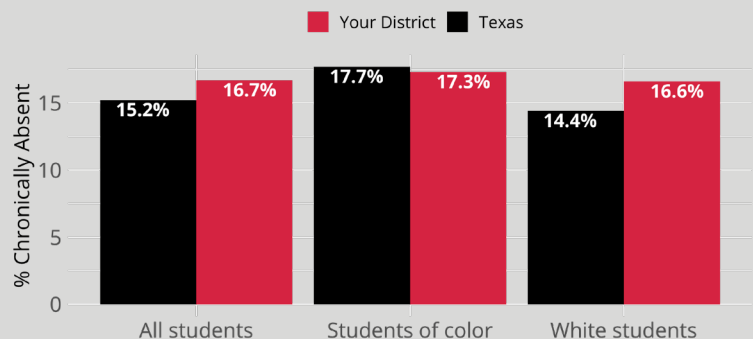
Texas needs better data about chronic absenteeism to address its causes and adequately support at-risk students.

**Source:** Texas Education Agency, 2020-21. Data by race-ethnicity not available for all schools. Summaries include all campuses within each legislative district. Map shows school districts entirely or partially (3%) within each district.

## SENATE DISTRICT #20

During the 2020-21 school year, **16.7%** of students attending school in this district missed at least one-tenth of their instruction – a total of **32,223 students**. This is a 2 percentage point increase from 2018-19.

Students of color were chronically absent at higher rates than white students: **17.3% vs. 16.6%**.



**Note:** Some data may be missing due to TEA's data masking rules.

## POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS

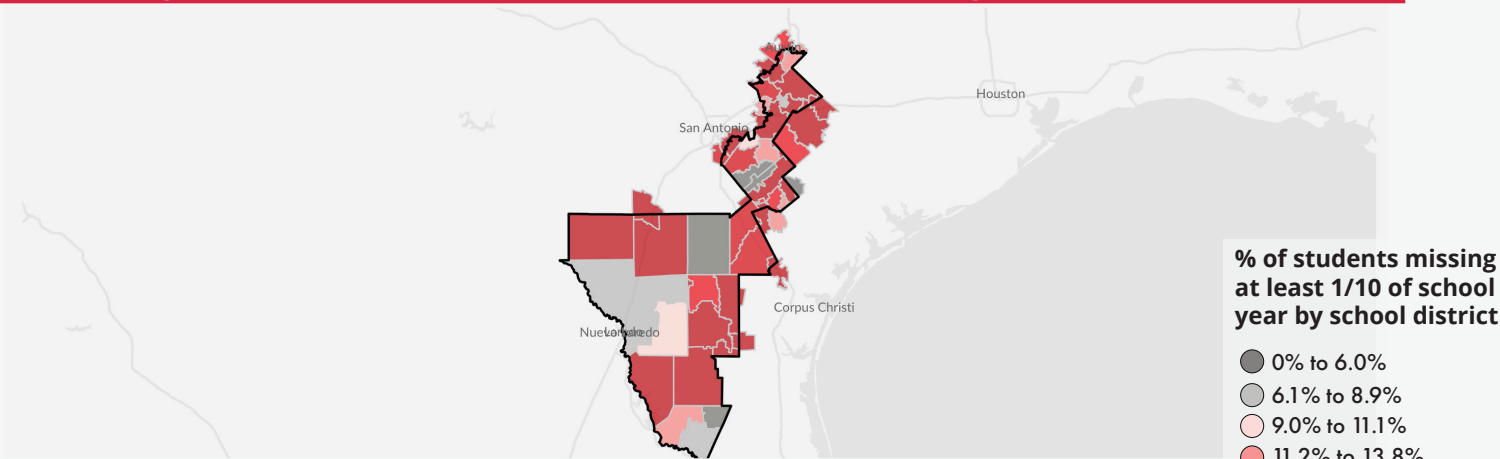
The pandemic exacerbated chronic absenteeism. More students faced new challenges and educational disruptions. **Yet, Texas does not currently define chronic absenteeism.**

CHILDREN AT RISK recommends the following policies:

- Define chronic absenteeism in the Texas Education code: "A student who misses 10% or more of instructional time within an academic year for any reason is chronically absent."
- Add chronic absenteeism to the "at risk" category.
- Require TEA to report chronic absenteeism clearly, consistently, and in an easily accessible format to increase transparency and better target student supports.



# Defining Chronic Absenteeism and Utilizing Data to Reduce it



**15.2%** of students attending school in Senate District #21 were chronically absent in 2020-21.



Senate District #21



Sen. Judith Zaffirini

## CHRONIC ABSENTEEISM

Chronic absenteeism is an early warning sign for educators. A student who is chronically absent in any year between eighth and twelfth grade is **seven times more likely to drop out of school**. For high school students, lack of attendance is a better indicator of dropping out than test scores.

Even before the pandemic, Texas had a problem with chronic absenteeism. In 2020-21, more than 760,000 students (15%) missed at least one-tenth of their instruction.

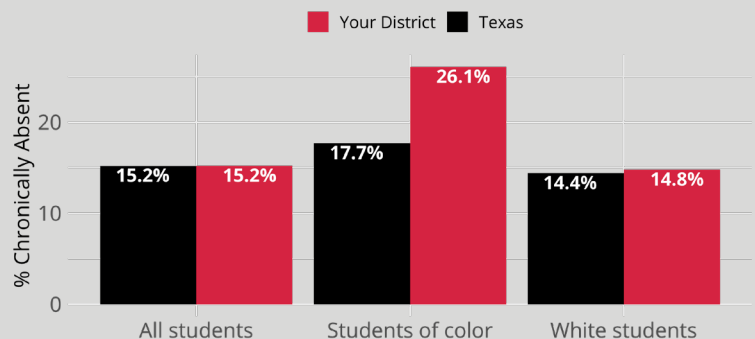
Texas needs better data about chronic absenteeism to address its causes and adequately support at-risk students.

**Source:** Texas Education Agency, 2020-21. Data by race-ethnicity not available for all schools. Summaries include all campuses within each legislative district. Map shows school districts entirely or partially (3%) within each district.

## SENATE DISTRICT #21

During the 2020-21 school year, **15.2%** of students attending school in this district missed at least one-tenth of their instruction – a total of **25,269 students**. This is a 2 percentage point increase from 2018-19.

Students of color were chronically absent at higher rates than white students: **26.1% vs. 14.8%**.



**Note:** Some data may be missing due to TEA's data masking rules.

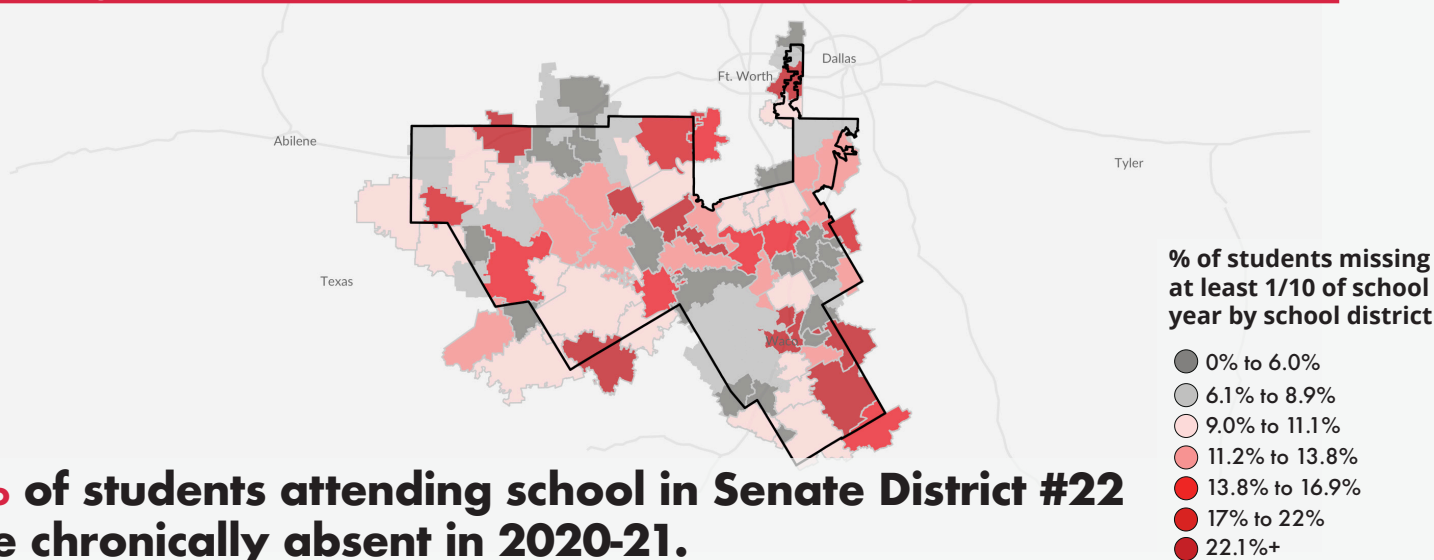
## POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS

The pandemic exacerbated chronic absenteeism. More students faced new challenges and educational disruptions. **Yet, Texas does not currently define chronic absenteeism.**

CHILDREN AT RISK recommends the following policies:

- Define chronic absenteeism in the Texas Education code: "A student who misses 10% or more of instructional time within an academic year for any reason is chronically absent."
- Add chronic absenteeism to the "at risk" category.
- Require TEA to report chronic absenteeism clearly, consistently, and in an easily accessible format to increase transparency and better target student supports.

# Defining Chronic Absenteeism and Utilizing Data to Reduce it



Senate District #22



Sen. Brian Birdwell

## CHRONIC ABSENTEEISM

Chronic absenteeism is an early warning sign for educators. A student who is chronically absent in any year between eighth and twelfth grade is **seven times more likely to drop out of school**. For high school students, lack of attendance is a better indicator of dropping out than test scores.

Even before the pandemic, Texas had a problem with chronic absenteeism. **In 2020-21, more than 760,000 students (15%) missed at least one-tenth of their instruction.**

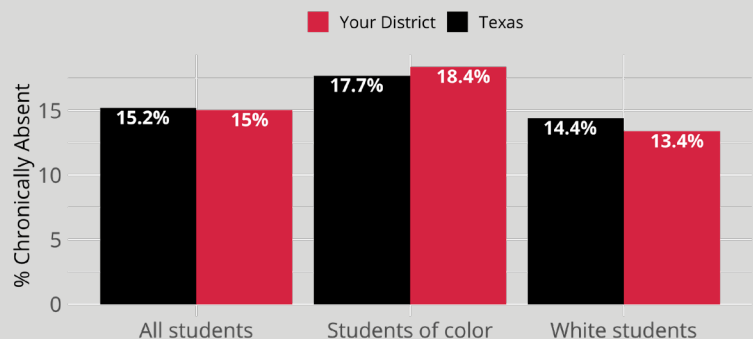
Texas needs better data about chronic absenteeism to address its causes and adequately support at-risk students.

**Source:** Texas Education Agency, 2020-21. Data by race-ethnicity not available for all schools. Summaries include all campuses within each legislative district. Map shows school districts entirely or partially (3%) within each district.

## SENATE DISTRICT #22

During the 2020-21 school year, **15%** of students attending school in this district missed at least one-tenth of their instruction – a total of **22,986 students**. This is a 5 percentage point increase from 2018-19.

Students of color were chronically absent at higher rates than white students: **18.4% vs. 13.4%**.



**Note:** Some data may be missing due to TEA's data masking rules.

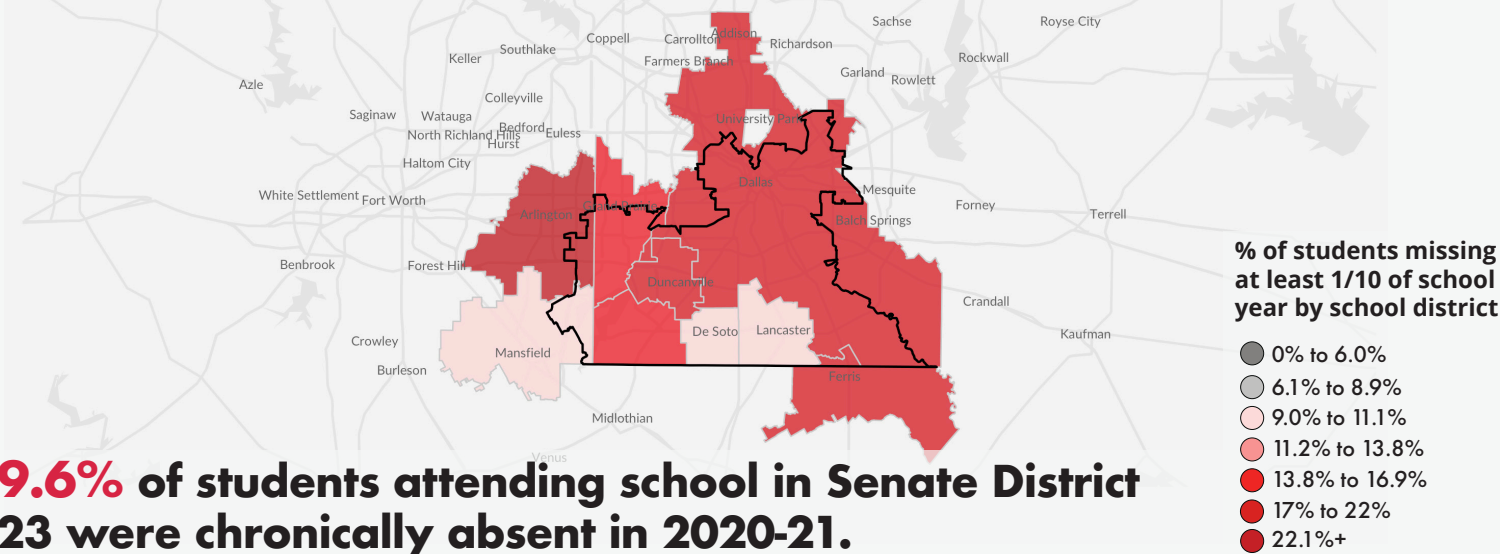
## POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS

The pandemic exacerbated chronic absenteeism. More students faced new challenges and educational disruptions. **Yet, Texas does not currently define chronic absenteeism.**

CHILDREN AT RISK recommends the following policies:

- Define chronic absenteeism in the Texas Education code: "A student who misses 10% or more of instructional time within an academic year for any reason is chronically absent."
- Add chronic absenteeism to the "at risk" category.
- Require TEA to report chronic absenteeism clearly, consistently, and in an easily accessible format to increase transparency and better target student supports.

# Defining Chronic Absenteeism and Utilizing Data to Reduce it



Senate District #23



Sen. Royce West

## CHRONIC ABSENTEEISM

Chronic absenteeism is an early warning sign for educators. A student who is chronically absent in any year between eighth and twelfth grade is **seven times more likely to drop out of school**. For high school students, lack of attendance is a better indicator of dropping out than test scores.

Even before the pandemic, Texas had a problem with chronic absenteeism. **In 2020-21, more than 760,000 students (15%) missed at least one-tenth of their instruction.**

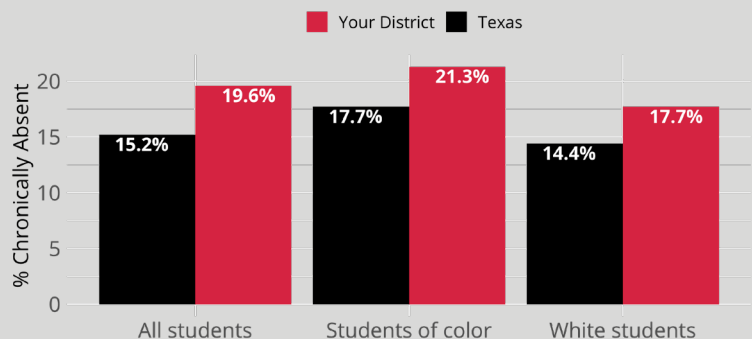
Texas needs better data about chronic absenteeism to address its causes and adequately support at-risk students.

**Source:** Texas Education Agency, 2020-21. Data by race-ethnicity not available for all schools. Summaries include all campuses within each legislative district. Map shows school districts entirely or partially (3%) within each district.

## SENATE DISTRICT #23

During the 2020-21 school year, **19.6%** of students attending school in this district missed at least one-tenth of their instruction – a total of **32,049 students**. This is a 5 percentage point increase from 2018-19.

Students of color were chronically absent at higher rates than white students: **21.3% vs. 17.7%**.



**Note:** Some data may be missing due to TEA's data masking rules.

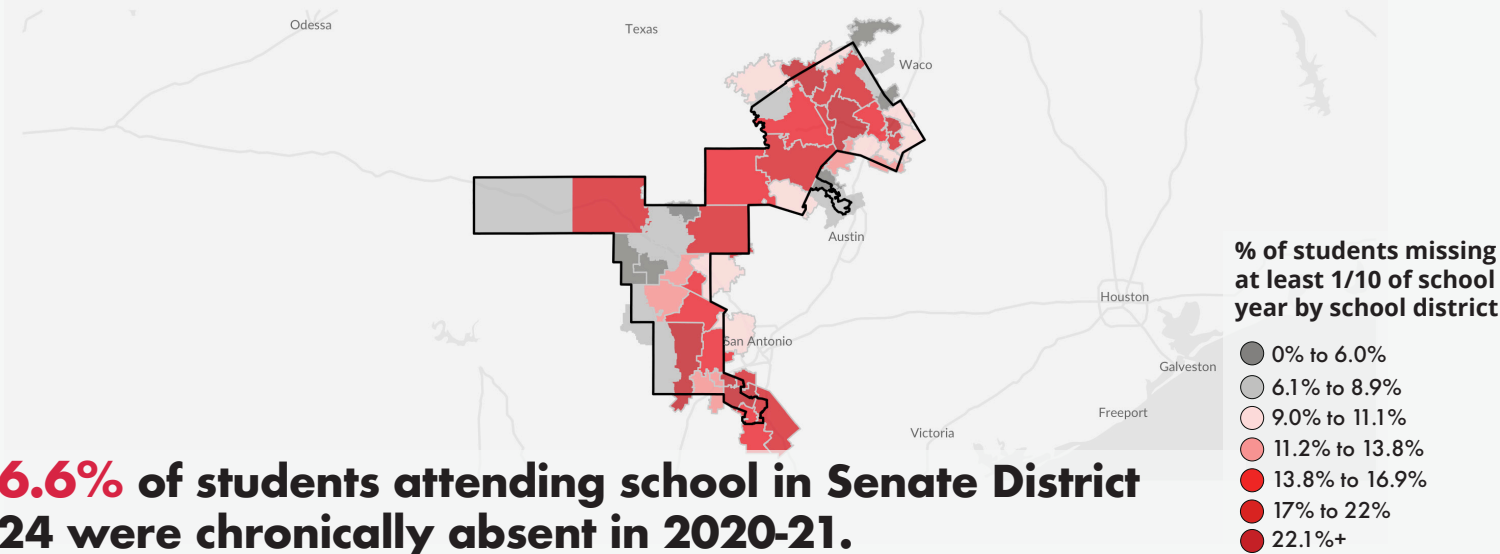
## POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS

The pandemic exacerbated chronic absenteeism. More students faced new challenges and educational disruptions. **Yet, Texas does not currently define chronic absenteeism.**

CHILDREN AT RISK recommends the following policies:

- Define chronic absenteeism in the Texas Education code: "A student who misses 10% or more of instructional time within an academic year for any reason is chronically absent."
- Add chronic absenteeism to the "at risk" category.
- Require TEA to report chronic absenteeism clearly, consistently, and in an easily accessible format to increase transparency and better target student supports.

# Defining Chronic Absenteeism and Utilizing Data to Reduce it



Senate District #24



Sen. Pete Flores

## CHRONIC ABSENTEEISM

Chronic absenteeism is an early warning sign for educators. A student who is chronically absent in any year between eighth and twelfth grade is **seven times more likely to drop out of school**. For high school students, lack of attendance is a better indicator of dropping out than test scores.

Even before the pandemic, Texas had a problem with chronic absenteeism. **In 2020-21, more than 760,000 students (15%) missed at least one-tenth of their instruction.**

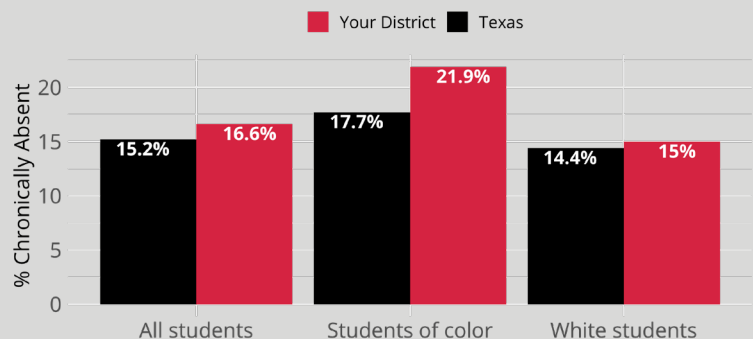
Texas needs better data about chronic absenteeism to address its causes and adequately support at-risk students.

**Source:** Texas Education Agency, 2020-21. Data by race-ethnicity not available for all schools. Summaries include all campuses within each legislative district. Map shows school districts entirely or partially (3%) within each district.

## SENATE DISTRICT #24

During the 2020-21 school year, **16.6%** of students attending school in this district missed at least one-tenth of their instruction – a total of **26,672 students**. This is a 4 percentage point increase from 2018-19.

Students of color were chronically absent at higher rates than white students: **21.9% vs. 15%**.



**Note:** Some data may be missing due to TEA's data masking rules.

## POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS

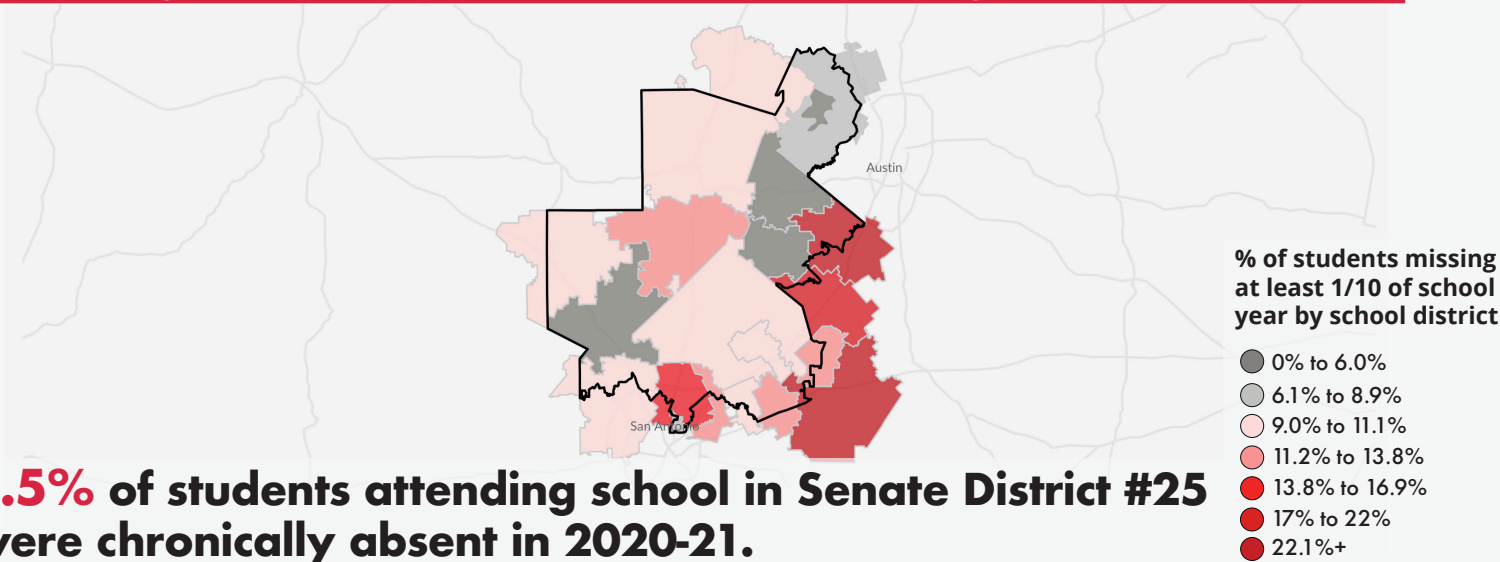
The pandemic exacerbated chronic absenteeism. More students faced new challenges and educational disruptions. **Yet, Texas does not currently define chronic absenteeism.**

CHILDREN AT RISK recommends the following policies:

- Define chronic absenteeism in the Texas Education code: "A student who misses 10% or more of instructional time within an academic year for any reason is chronically absent."
- Add chronic absenteeism to the "at risk" category.
- Require TEA to report chronic absenteeism clearly, consistently, and in an easily accessible format to increase transparency and better target student supports.



# Defining Chronic Absenteeism and Utilizing Data to Reduce it



Senate District #25



Sen. Donna Campbell

## CHRONIC ABSENTEEISM

Chronic absenteeism is an early warning sign for educators. A student who is chronically absent in any year between eighth and twelfth grade is **seven times more likely to drop out of school**. For high school students, lack of attendance is a better indicator of dropping out than test scores.

Even before the pandemic, Texas had a problem with chronic absenteeism. **In 2020-21, more than 760,000 students (15%) missed at least one-tenth of their instruction.**

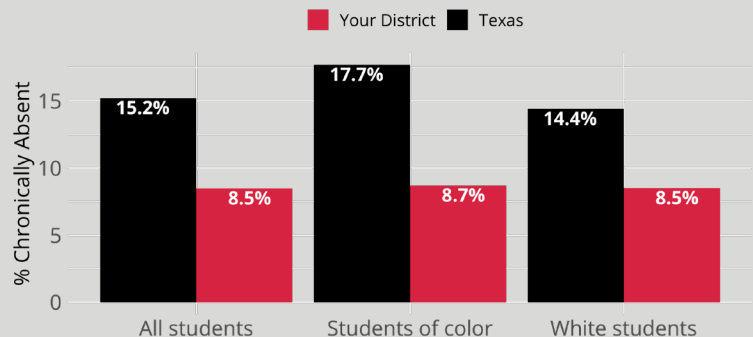
Texas needs better data about chronic absenteeism to address its causes and adequately support at-risk students.

**Source:** Texas Education Agency, 2020-21. Data by race-ethnicity not available for all schools. Summaries include all campuses within each legislative district. Map shows school districts entirely or partially (3%) within each district.

## SENATE DISTRICT #25

During the 2020-21 school year, **8.5%** of students attending school in this district missed at least one-tenth of their instruction – a total of **11,650 students**. This is a 2 percentage point decrease from 2018-19.

Students of color were chronically absent at higher rates than white students: **8.7% vs. 8.5%**.



**Note:** Some data may be missing due to TEA's data masking rules.

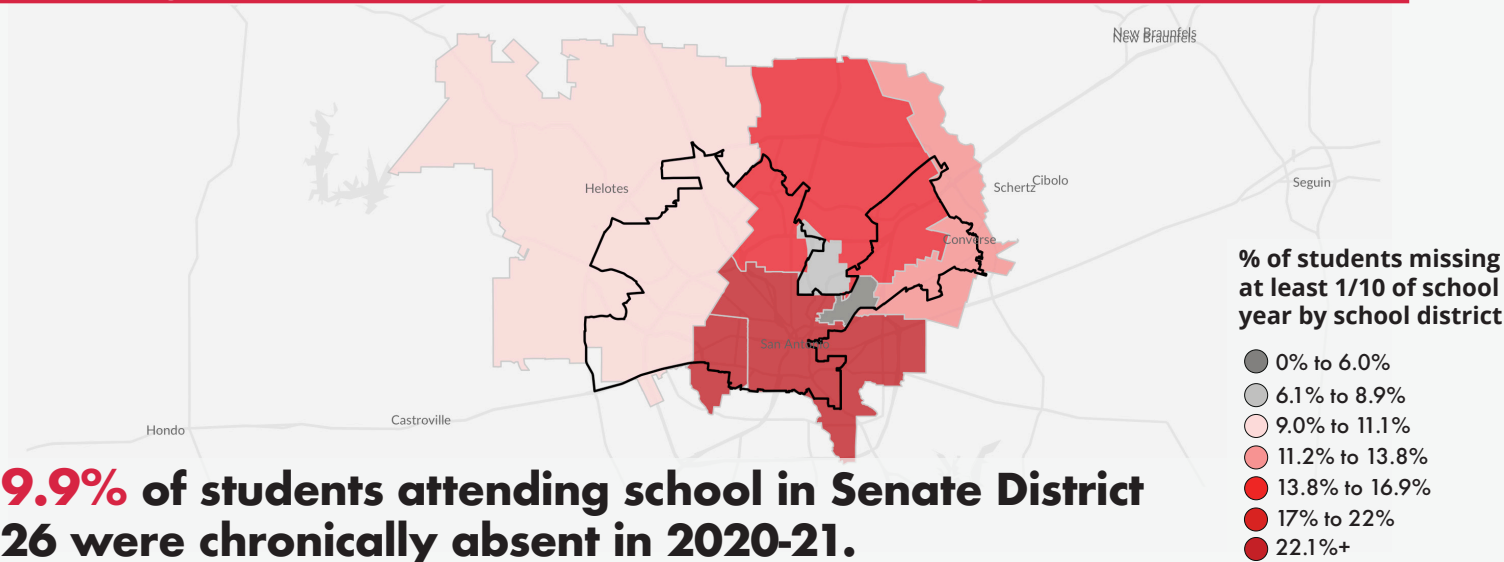
## POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS

The pandemic exacerbated chronic absenteeism. More students faced new challenges and educational disruptions. **Yet, Texas does not currently define chronic absenteeism.**

CHILDREN AT RISK recommends the following policies:

- Define chronic absenteeism in the Texas Education code: "A student who misses 10% or more of instructional time within an academic year for any reason is chronically absent."
- Add chronic absenteeism to the "at risk" category.
- Require TEA to report chronic absenteeism clearly, consistently, and in an easily accessible format to increase transparency and better target student supports.

# Defining Chronic Absenteeism and Utilizing Data to Reduce it



Senate District #26



Sen. José Menéndez

## CHRONIC ABSENTEEISM

Chronic absenteeism is an early warning sign for educators. A student who is chronically absent in any year between eighth and twelfth grade is **seven times more likely to drop out of school**. For high school students, lack of attendance is a better indicator of dropping out than test scores.

Even before the pandemic, Texas had a problem with chronic absenteeism. In 2020-21, more than 760,000 students (15%) missed at least one-tenth of their instruction.

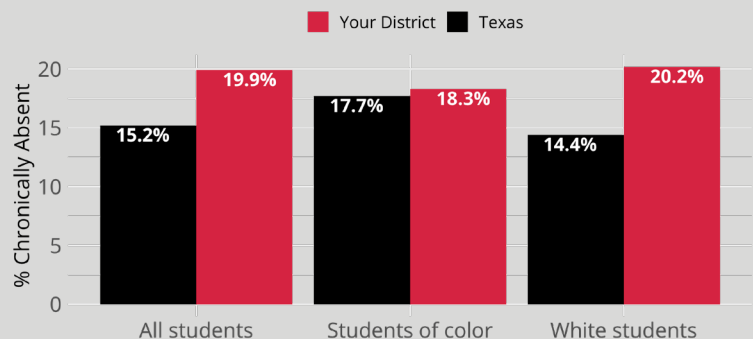
Texas needs better data about chronic absenteeism to address its causes and adequately support at-risk students.

**Source:** Texas Education Agency, 2020-21. Data by race-ethnicity not available for all schools. Summaries include all campuses within each legislative district. Map shows school districts entirely or partially (3%) within each district.

## SENATE DISTRICT #26

During the 2020-21 school year, **19.9%** of students attending school in this district missed at least one-tenth of their instruction – a total of **28,975 students**. This is a 1 percentage point increase from 2018-19.

Students of color were chronically absent at lower rates than white students: **18.3% vs. 20.2%**.



**Note:** Some data may be missing due to TEA's data masking rules.

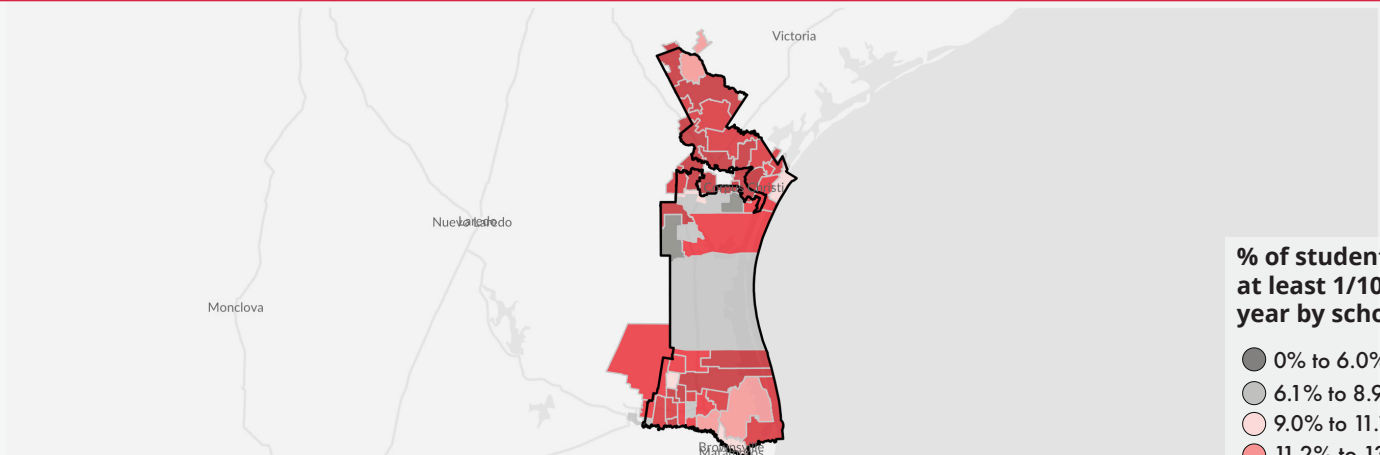
## POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS

The pandemic exacerbated chronic absenteeism. More students faced new challenges and educational disruptions. **Yet, Texas does not currently define chronic absenteeism.**

CHILDREN AT RISK recommends the following policies:

- Define chronic absenteeism in the Texas Education code: "A student who misses 10% or more of instructional time within an academic year for any reason is chronically absent."
- Add chronic absenteeism to the "at risk" category.
- Require TEA to report chronic absenteeism clearly, consistently, and in an easily accessible format to increase transparency and better target student supports.

# Defining Chronic Absenteeism and Utilizing Data to Reduce it



**14.8%** of students attending school in Senate District #27 were chronically absent in 2020-21.



Senate District #27



Sen. Morgan LaMantia

## CHRONIC ABSENTEEISM

Chronic absenteeism is an early warning sign for educators. A student who is chronically absent in any year between eighth and twelfth grade is **seven times more likely to drop out of school**. For high school students, lack of attendance is a better indicator of dropping out than test scores.

Even before the pandemic, Texas had a problem with chronic absenteeism. In 2020-21, more than 760,000 students (15%) missed at least one-tenth of their instruction.

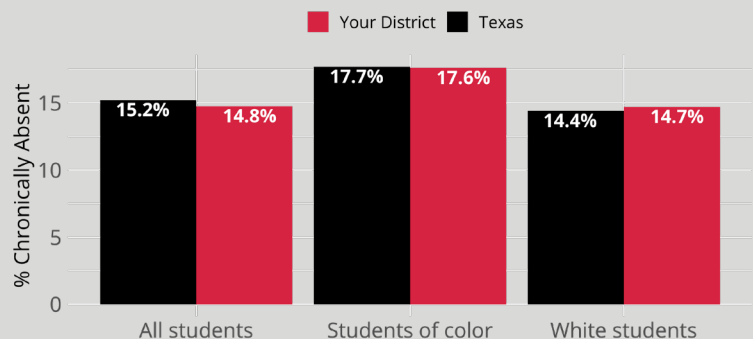
Texas needs better data about chronic absenteeism to address its causes and adequately support at-risk students.

**Source:** Texas Education Agency, 2020-21. Data by race-ethnicity not available for all schools. Summaries include all campuses within each legislative district. Map shows school districts entirely or partially (3%) within each district.

## SENATE DISTRICT #27

During the 2020-21 school year, **14.8%** of students attending school in this district missed at least one-tenth of their instruction – a total of **31,218 students**. This is a 3 percentage point increase from 2018-19.

Students of color were chronically absent at higher rates than white students: **17.6% vs. 14.7%**.



**Note:** Some data may be missing due to TEA's data masking rules.

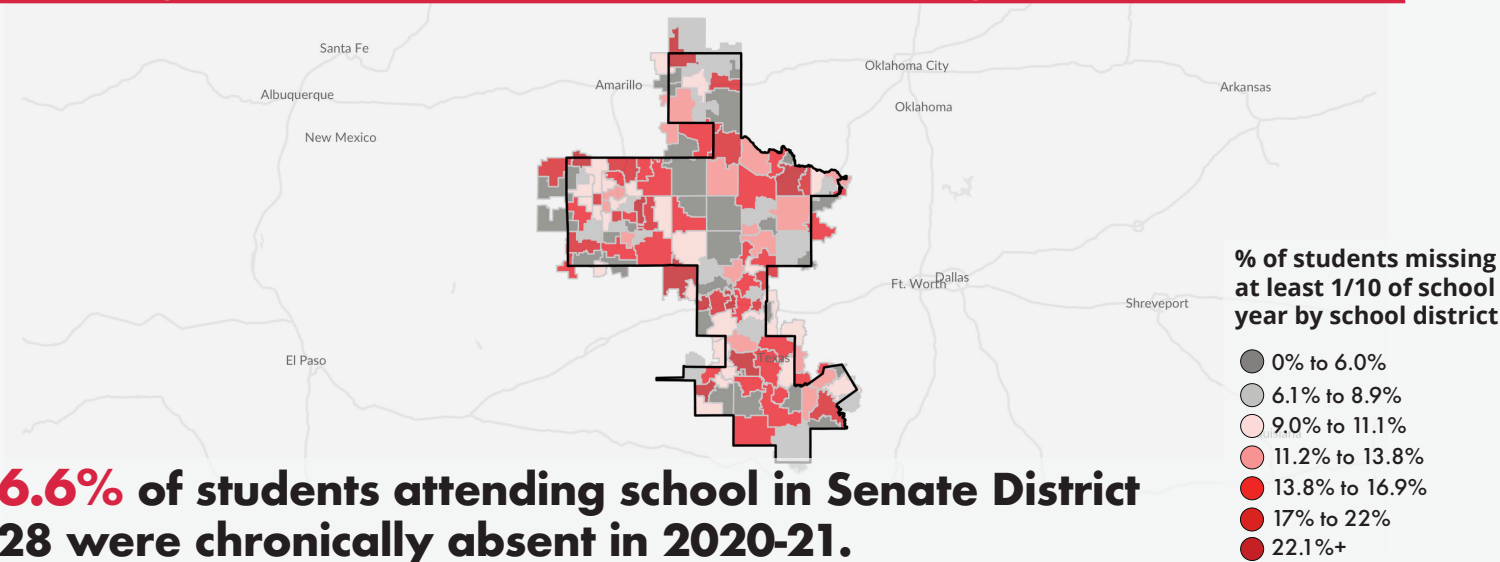
## POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS

The pandemic exacerbated chronic absenteeism. More students faced new challenges and educational disruptions. **Yet, Texas does not currently define chronic absenteeism.**

CHILDREN AT RISK recommends the following policies:

- Define chronic absenteeism in the Texas Education code: "A student who misses 10% or more of instructional time within an academic year for any reason is chronically absent."
- Add chronic absenteeism to the "at risk" category.
- Require TEA to report chronic absenteeism clearly, consistently, and in an easily accessible format to increase transparency and better target student supports.

# Defining Chronic Absenteeism and Utilizing Data to Reduce it



Senate District #28



Sen. Charles Perry

## CHRONIC ABSENTEEISM

Chronic absenteeism is an early warning sign for educators. A student who is chronically absent in any year between eighth and twelfth grade is **seven times more likely to drop out of school**. For high school students, lack of attendance is a better indicator of dropping out than test scores.

Even before the pandemic, Texas had a problem with chronic absenteeism. **In 2020-21, more than 760,000 students (15%) missed at least one-tenth of their instruction.**

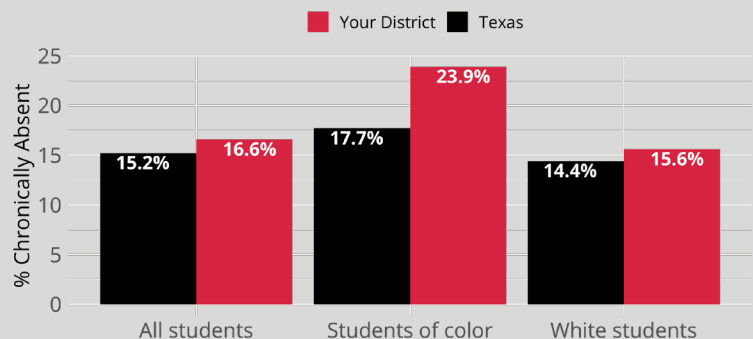
Texas needs better data about chronic absenteeism to address its causes and adequately support at-risk students.

**Source:** Texas Education Agency, 2020-21. Data by race-ethnicity not available for all schools. Summaries include all campuses within each legislative district. Map shows school districts entirely or partially (3%) within each district.

## SENATE DISTRICT #28

During the 2020-21 school year, **16.6%** of students attending school in this district missed at least one-tenth of their instruction – a total of **23,938 students**. This is a 4 percentage point increase from 2018-19.

Students of color were chronically absent at higher rates than white students: **23.9% vs. 15.6%**.



**Note:** Some data may be missing due to TEA's data masking rules.

## POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS

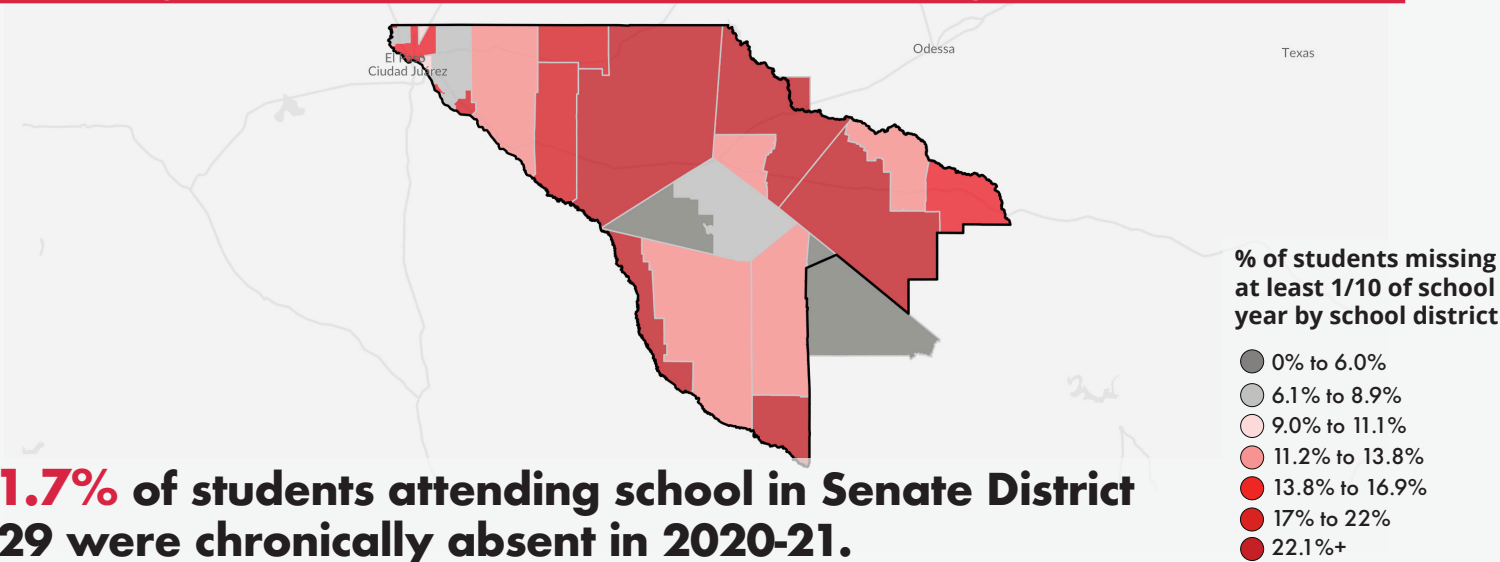
The pandemic exacerbated chronic absenteeism. More students faced new challenges and educational disruptions. **Yet, Texas does not currently define chronic absenteeism.**

CHILDREN AT RISK recommends the following policies:

- Define chronic absenteeism in the Texas Education code: "A student who misses 10% or more of instructional time within an academic year for any reason is chronically absent."
- Add chronic absenteeism to the "at risk" category.
- Require TEA to report chronic absenteeism clearly, consistently, and in an easily accessible format to increase transparency and better target student supports.



# Defining Chronic Absenteeism and Utilizing Data to Reduce it



Senate District #29



Sen. César Blanco

## CHRONIC ABSENTEEISM

Chronic absenteeism is an early warning sign for educators. A student who is chronically absent in any year between eighth and twelfth grade is **seven times more likely to drop out of school**. For high school students, lack of attendance is a better indicator of dropping out than test scores.

Even before the pandemic, Texas had a problem with chronic absenteeism. **In 2020-21, more than 760,000 students (15%) missed at least one-tenth of their instruction.**

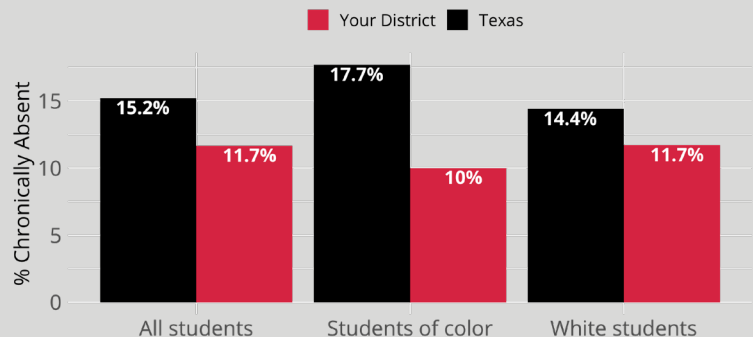
Texas needs better data about chronic absenteeism to address its causes and adequately support at-risk students.

**Source:** Texas Education Agency, 2020-21. Data by race-ethnicity not available for all schools. Summaries include all campuses within each legislative district. Map shows school districts entirely or partially (3%) within each district.

## SENATE DISTRICT #29

During the 2020-21 school year, **11.7%** of students attending school in this district missed at least one-tenth of their instruction – a total of **19,437 students**. This is a 1 percentage point decrease from 2018-19.

Students of color were chronically absent at lower rates than white students: **10% vs. 11.7%**.



**Note:** Some data may be missing due to TEA's data masking rules.

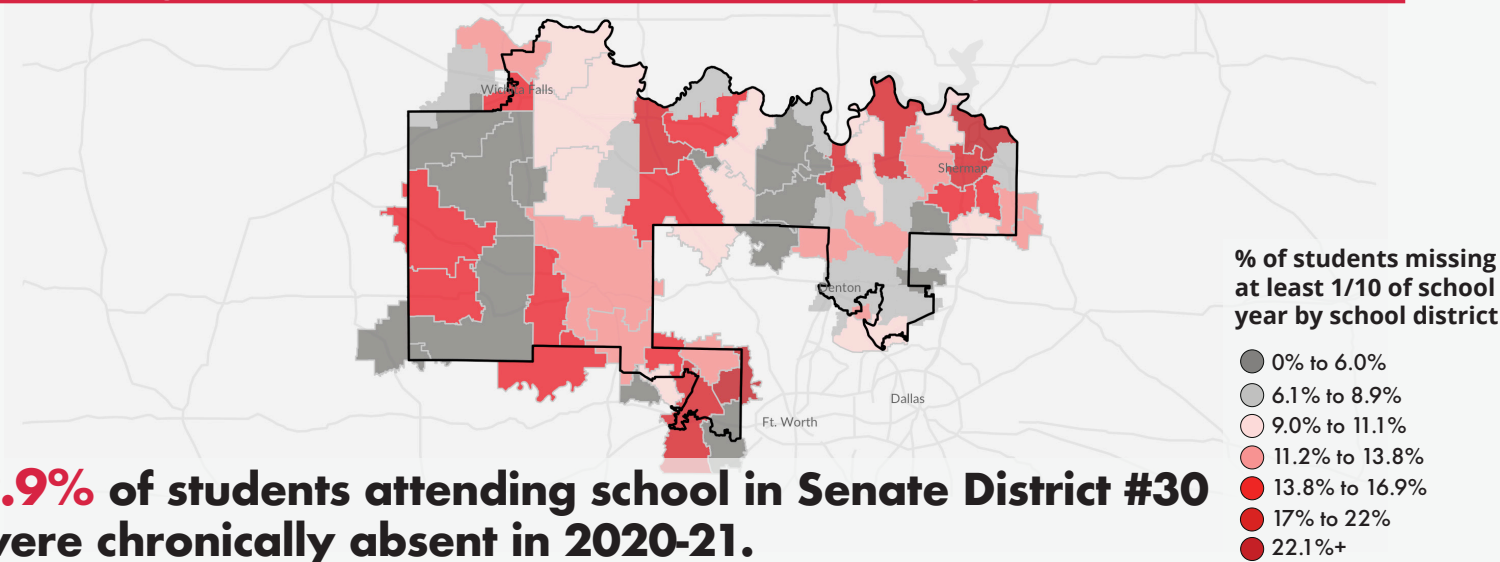
## POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS

The pandemic exacerbated chronic absenteeism. More students faced new challenges and educational disruptions. **Yet, Texas does not currently define chronic absenteeism.**

CHILDREN AT RISK recommends the following policies:

- Define chronic absenteeism in the Texas Education code: "A student who misses 10% or more of instructional time within an academic year for any reason is chronically absent."
- Add chronic absenteeism to the "at risk" category.
- Require TEA to report chronic absenteeism clearly, consistently, and in an easily accessible format to increase transparency and better target student supports.

# Defining Chronic Absenteeism and Utilizing Data to Reduce it



Senate District #30



Sen. Drew Springer

## CHRONIC ABSENTEEISM

Chronic absenteeism is an early warning sign for educators. A student who is chronically absent in any year between eighth and twelfth grade is **seven times more likely to drop out of school**. For high school students, lack of attendance is a better indicator of dropping out than test scores.

Even before the pandemic, Texas had a problem with chronic absenteeism. **In 2020-21, more than 760,000 students (15%) missed at least one-tenth of their instruction.**

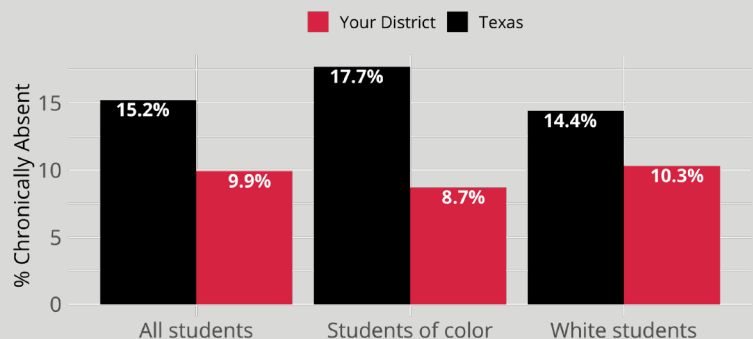
Texas needs better data about chronic absenteeism to address its causes and adequately support at-risk students.

**Source:** Texas Education Agency, 2020-21. Data by race-ethnicity not available for all schools. Summaries include all campuses within each legislative district. Map shows school districts entirely or partially (3%) within each district.

## SENATE DISTRICT #30

During the 2020-21 school year, **9.9%** of students attending school in this district missed at least one-tenth of their instruction – a total of **16,529 students**. This is a 1 percentage point increase from 2018-19.

Students of color were chronically absent at lower rates than white students: **8.7% vs. 10.3%**.



**Note:** Some data may be missing due to TEA's data masking rules.

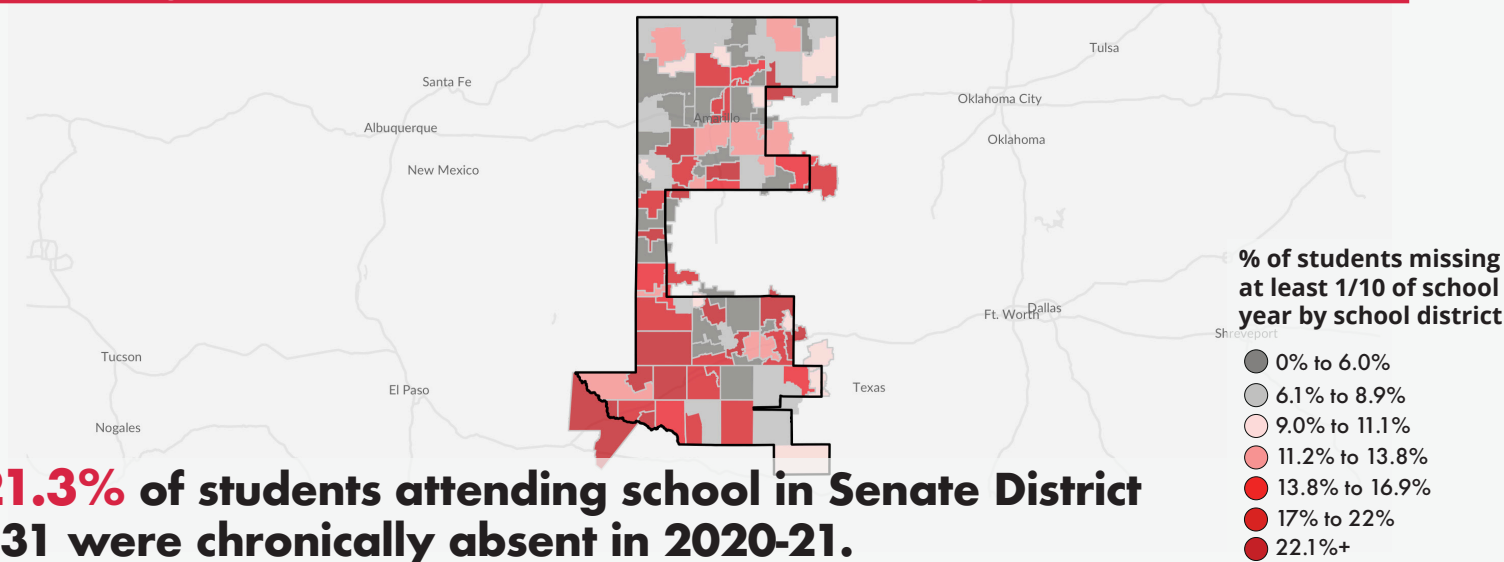
## POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS

The pandemic exacerbated chronic absenteeism. More students faced new challenges and educational disruptions. **Yet, Texas does not currently define chronic absenteeism.**

CHILDREN AT RISK recommends the following policies:

- Define chronic absenteeism in the Texas Education code: "A student who misses 10% or more of instructional time within an academic year for any reason is chronically absent."
- Add chronic absenteeism to the "at risk" category.
- Require TEA to report chronic absenteeism clearly, consistently, and in an easily accessible format to increase transparency and better target student supports.

# Defining Chronic Absenteeism and Utilizing Data to Reduce it



Senate District #31



Sen. Kevin Sparks

## CHRONIC ABSENTEEISM

Chronic absenteeism is an early warning sign for educators. A student who is chronically absent in any year between eighth and twelfth grade is **seven times more likely to drop out of school**. For high school students, lack of attendance is a better indicator of dropping out than test scores.

Even before the pandemic, Texas had a problem with chronic absenteeism. **In 2020-21, more than 760,000 students (15%) missed at least one-tenth of their instruction.**

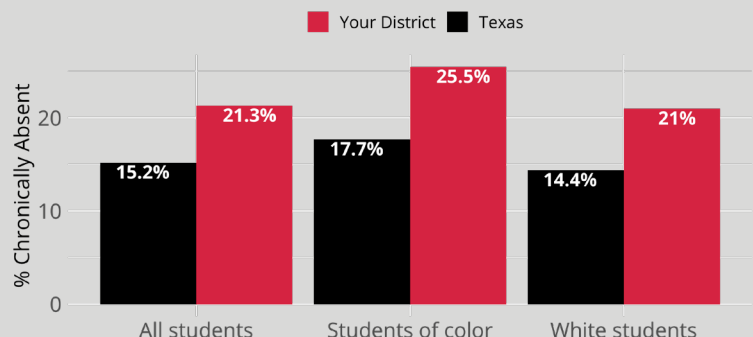
Texas needs better data about chronic absenteeism to address its causes and adequately support at-risk students.

**Source:** Texas Education Agency, 2020-21. Data by race-ethnicity not available for all schools. Summaries include all campuses within each legislative district. Map shows school districts entirely or partially (3%) within each district.

## SENATE DISTRICT #31

During the 2020-21 school year, **21.3%** of students attending school in this district missed at least one-tenth of their instruction – a total of **33,932 students**. This is a 7 percentage point increase from 2018-19.

Students of color were chronically absent at higher rates than white students: **25.5% vs. 21%**.



**Note:** Some data may be missing due to TEA's data masking rules.

## POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS

The pandemic exacerbated chronic absenteeism. More students faced new challenges and educational disruptions. **Yet, Texas does not currently define chronic absenteeism.**

CHILDREN AT RISK recommends the following policies:

- Define chronic absenteeism in the Texas Education code: "A student who misses 10% or more of instructional time within an academic year for any reason is chronically absent."
- Add chronic absenteeism to the "at risk" category.
- Require TEA to report chronic absenteeism clearly, consistently, and in an easily accessible format to increase transparency and better target student supports.