

Following national trends, Kentucky's chronic absence rates decreased from its high of 30% Post-Pandemic

Pre-pandemic Baseline – Approximately 1 in 6 students were chronically absent.

Pandemic Escalation & Persistence –

Chronic absenteeism increased sharply during the pandemic, reaching 27% in 2021–22 and spiking to a peak of 30% in 2022–23, impacting nearly 1 in 3 students at its highest point.

Slow Recovery – Despite meaningful improvement since the 2022-2023 peak, chronic absenteeism in 2024-2025 remained elevated, impacting approximately 1 in 4 Kentucky students and exceeding pre-pandemic norms.

