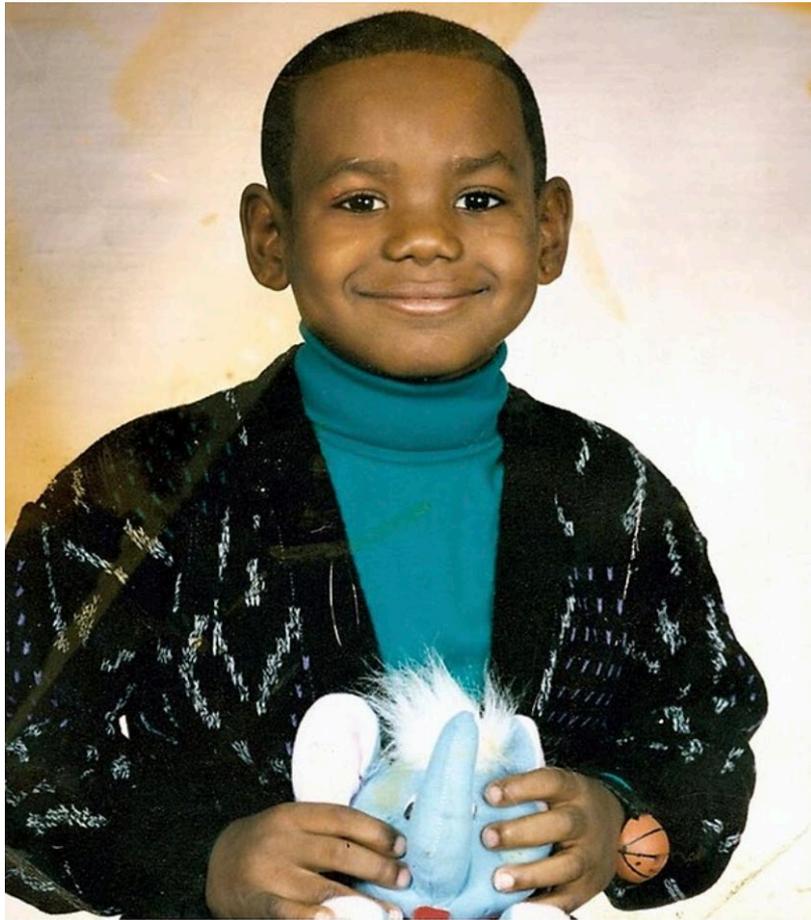


# *FutureEd*

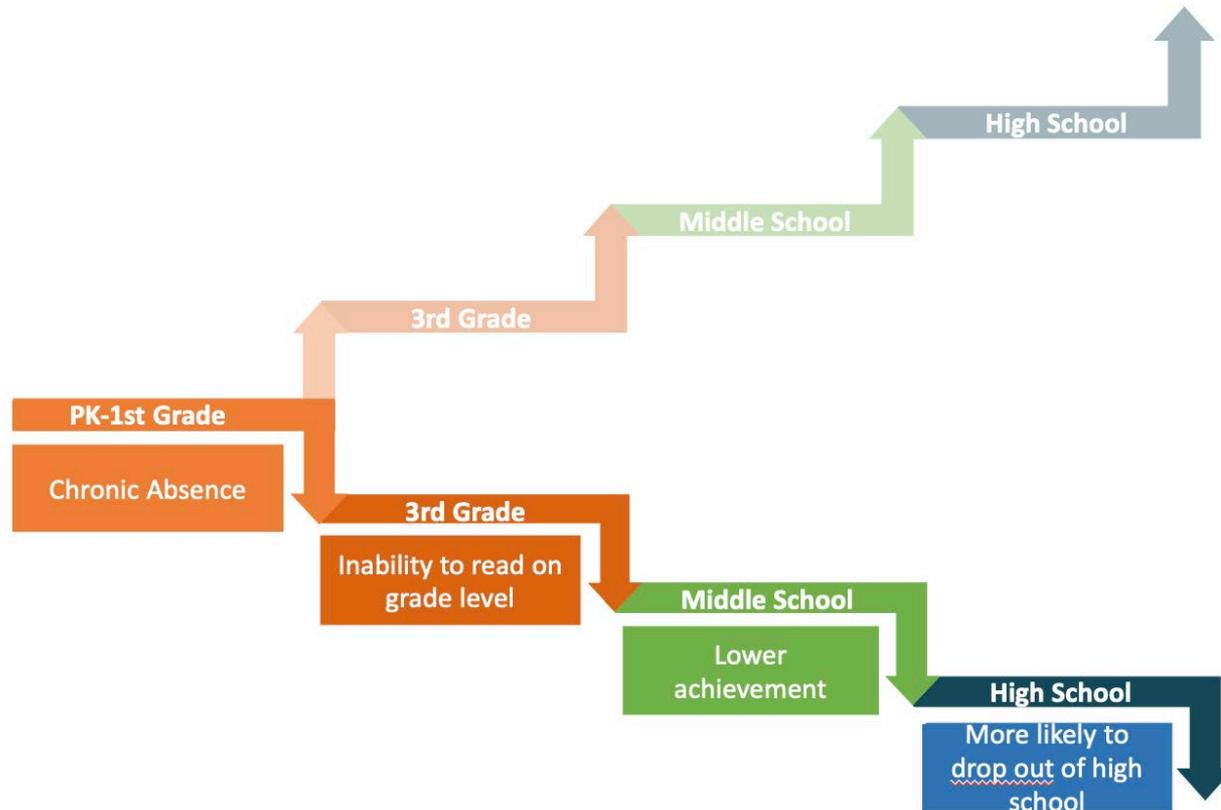
GEORGETOWN UNIVERSITY

[www.future-ed.org](http://www.future-ed.org)

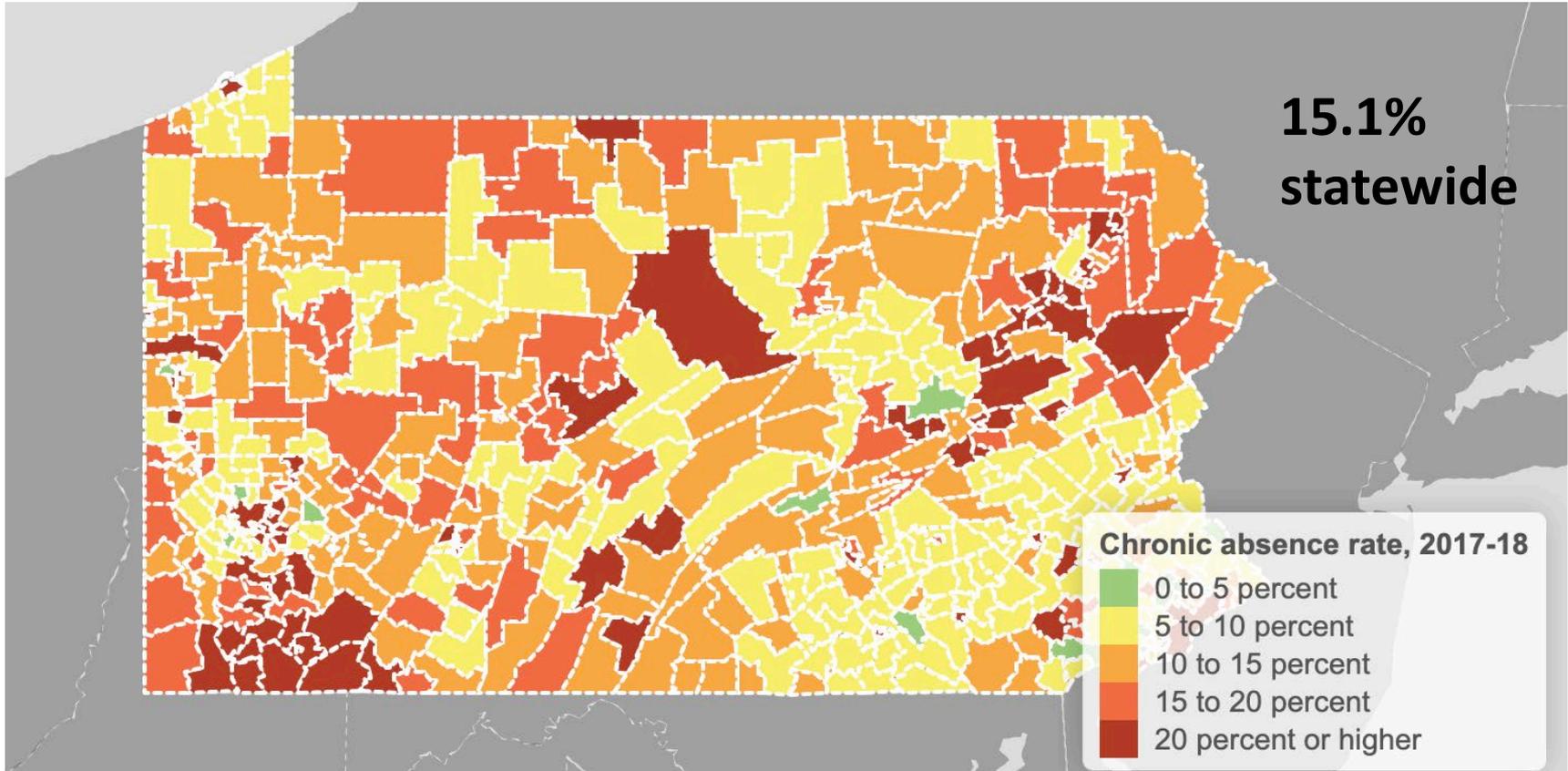
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# Why Absenteeism Matters



# Chronic absenteeism in Pennsylvania



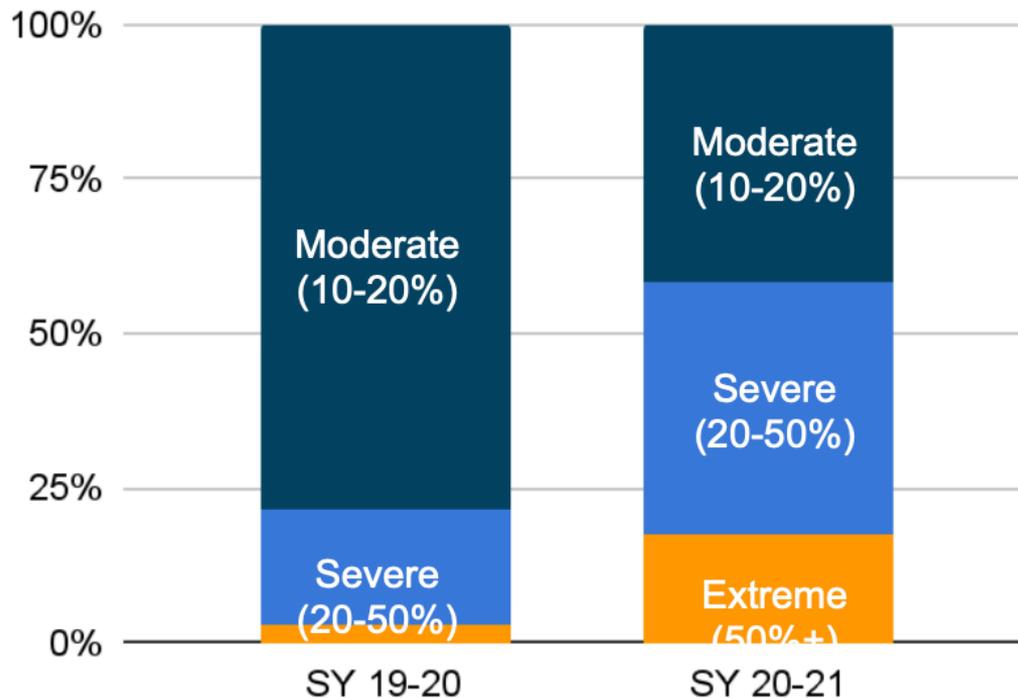
Source: The Hamilton Project, Brookings

[https://www.hamiltonproject.org/charts/chronic\\_absence\\_across\\_the\\_united\\_states\\_2017\\_18\\_school\\_year](https://www.hamiltonproject.org/charts/chronic_absence_across_the_united_states_2017_18_school_year)

# Attendance trends in the pandemic

## Severity of absence increased; common for 5%+ students to miss 50%+ days

Chronically Absent Students by Severity  
(EveryDay Labs Avg)

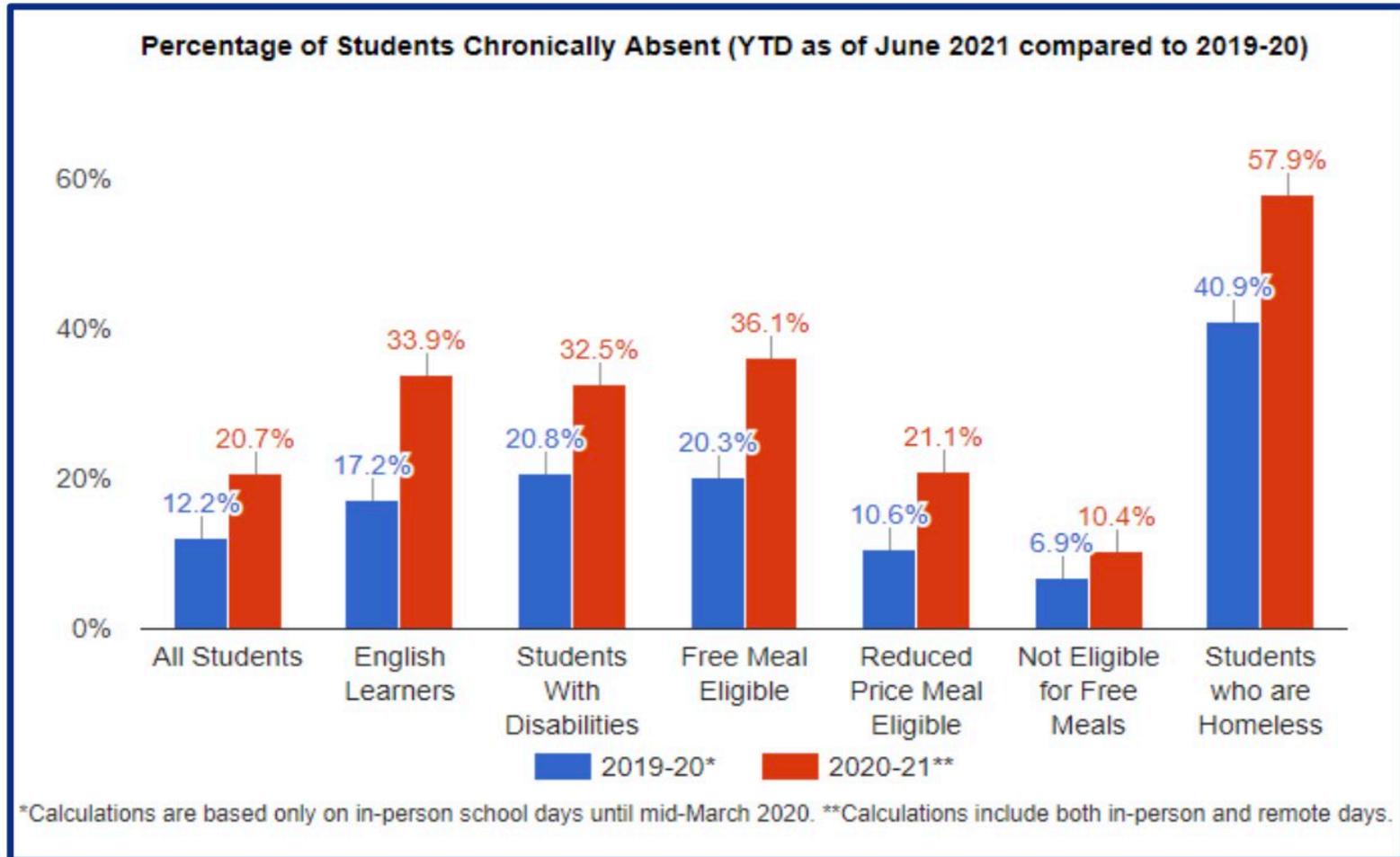


Not only did more students miss school, they missed many more days.

Rates rose faster among younger students.

Source: Every Day Labs

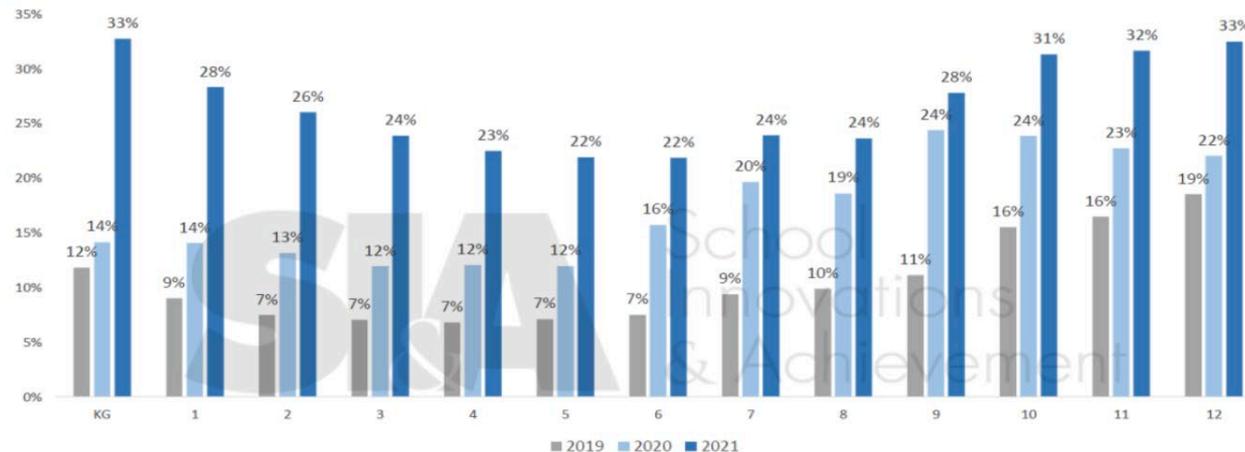
# More pandemic attendance trends



# Trends continue into this fall

Early SY 2021-22 data from subset of districts in CA shows dramatic increases

## Chronic Rate Comparison By Grade

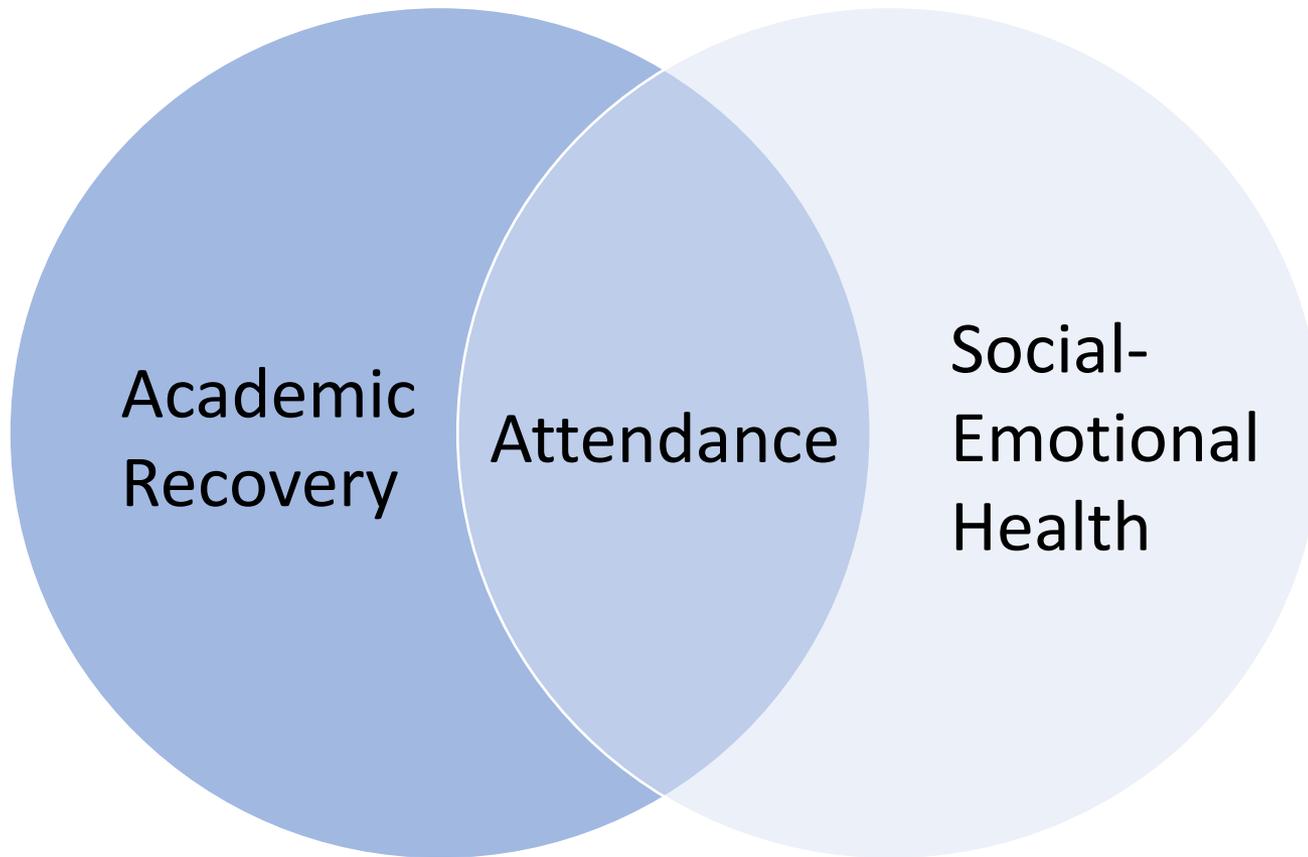


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Source: School Innovations and Achievement (SI&A) California Chronic Absenteeism Analysis

<https://www.sia-us.com/resources>

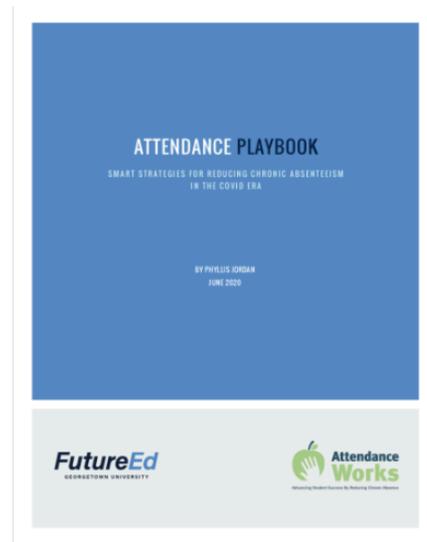
# Attendance is central to recovery



# Attendance Playbook: Covid Edition

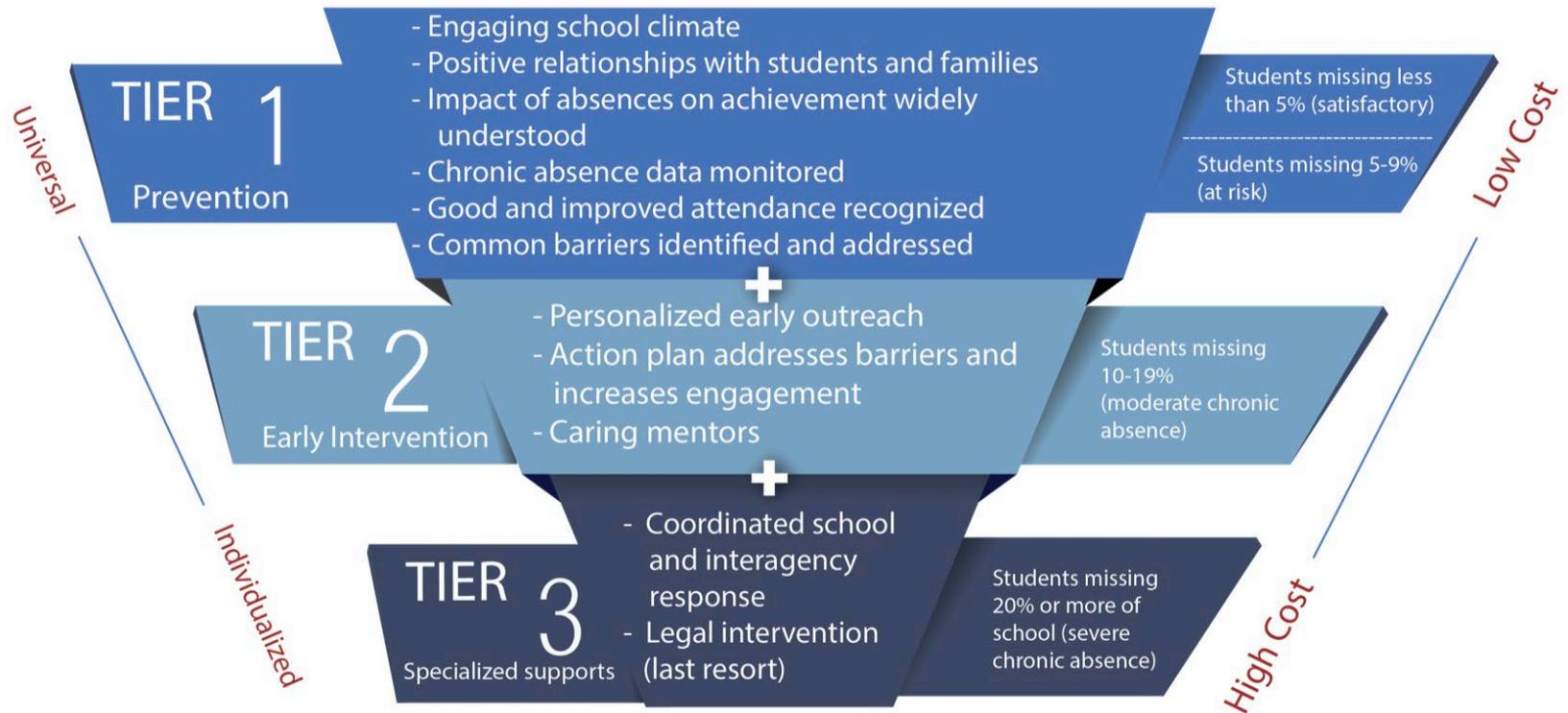
Includes 2 dozen interventions for improving attendance with:

- Strength of evidence based on 4 levels prescribed in ESSA
- Best tier of support in multi-tiered systems
- Links to research and resources
- An implementation guide



<https://www.future-ed.org/attendance-playbook/>

# Tiers of Support



# Adopt evidence-based interventions

- Home visiting
- Nudges: letters and texts
- Mentoring and tutoring
- Safe routes to school
- Health and telehealth



# Create a welcoming school climate

- Attendance campaigns
- Positive greetings
- Mental health supports
- Non-punitive approach to discipline and absences
- Attention to school refusal



# Leverage community resources

- Engage with a community coalition
- Tap AmeriCorps and other service programs
- Expand Community Schools model



# Improve data collection/systems

- Upgrade attendance and engagement tracking systems
- Ensure consistent definitions for both in-person and online attendance



# What to avoid

- Harsh discipline that can push students out
- Truancy rules that punish w/out addressing root causes
- Disenrolling students until it's clear they're enrolled elsewhere



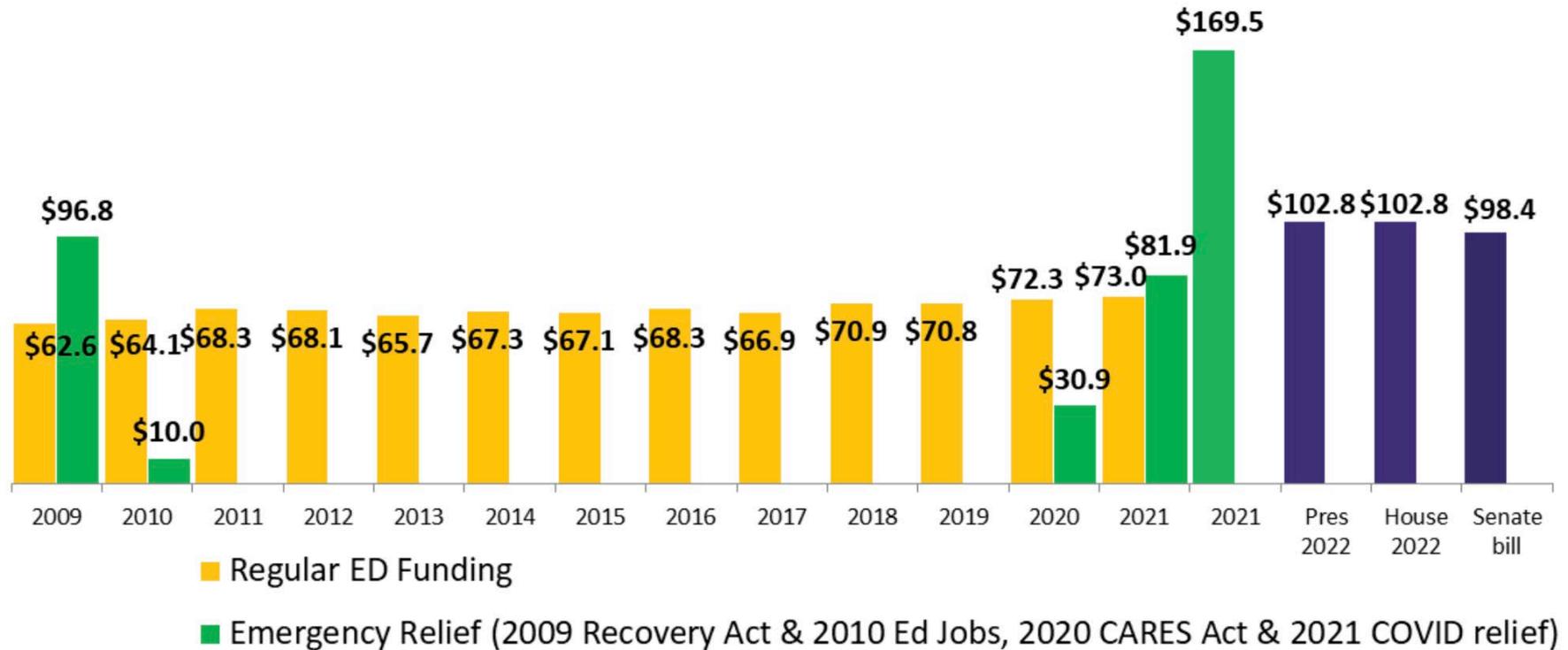
# K-12 funding in Covid relief plans



	CARES Act Signed into Law March 2020	Covid Relief Package Signed into Law December 2020	American Rescue Plan Signed into Law March 2021
Education Total	\$30.7 billion	\$82 billion	\$168 billion
K-12	\$13.2	\$54	\$122
Higher Ed	\$14	\$22	\$40
Governors	\$3	\$4	\$2.7

# FY 2022 Could Be Historic Level of Regular Education Funding After Years of Flat Funding

(Department of Education Discretionary Funding in Billions of Dollars)



2017, 2019, 2020 & 2021 regular totals reflect rescissions of Pell Grant funds

# What's in it for Pennsylvania?

## ESSER Funding

**CARES ACT: \$542M**

**CRRSA: \$2.2B**

**ARP: \$5.4B**

- Learning Through an Integrated System of Support
- Subgrants to districts for learning loss, summer learning, afterschool
- Social, emotional and mental health supports
- Professional development for educators
- Reading support and improvement for students.

# How—and when—ARP money flows



**Approved by  
Congress March 10**



**2/3 sent to states March 24,  
Final 1/3 after states submit  
plans to US Education Dept.  
51 submitted, 48 approved**



**90% to school districts  
& charters**

# Who's making the decisions?

- **Local School Boards:** School districts have mostly allotted money for Rounds 1 and 2. Round 3 is still being debated
- **State Board of Education:** With 10% of K-12 aid reserved for the state agencies, there are statewide proposals
- **State Legislature:** In some states, the General Assemblies are proposing how to use the state dollars or suggesting what local governments should prioritize
- **Governor:** In first 2 rounds, governors had discretionary dollars for K-12 and higher ed. The 3rd round allows spending only for private schools

# Questions for you:

- What are the biggest issues you've faced with absenteeism?
- What strategies have worked—or not worked—for you?
- Is your district using its Covid relief aid to support attendance and engagement?

# Read more:

How States are Using Covid Relief Funds for Learning Recovery

<https://www.future-ed.org/how-states-are-using-federal-funds-for-learning-recovery/>

What Congressional Covid Funding Means for K-12 Education: <https://www.future-ed.org/what-congressional-covid-funding-means-for-k-12-schools/>

Covid Playbook: Smart Strategies for Investing Federal Funding:

<https://www.future-ed.org/covid-playbook/>

Attendance Playbook: Smart Solutions for Reducing Chronic Absenteeism in the Covid Era: <https://www.future-ed.org/attendance-playbook/>

Getting to Yes on Covid Relief Spending <https://www.future-ed.org/getting-to-yes-on-covid-relief-spending/>