



# **Topic: Chronic Absenteeism**

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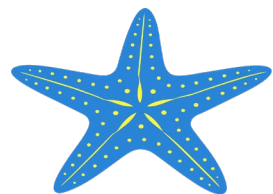
**Strengthen  
our Community**

# What Is Strengthen our Community (SoC)?

A Non-Profit That Is **Not Committed To Any One Cause**

Dedicated To Addressing Community-Wide Challenges:

- Important But **Complex Issues Not Being Addressed**
- Issues Too Difficult To Resolve For Any One Agency
- Crosses Public, Private, Non-profit, And Business Sectors
- Has **Impacts** On The **Long-Term** Strength Of The Community
- Emphasis On **Education, Families, And** Good Governance



Strengthen  
our Community

# Top SoC Issues - Currently

## 1. Chronic Absenteeism (CA) Crisis

**Goal:** To Pre-Pandemic Level By 2027 - 15k To 7.5k

## 2. Universal Preschool / Pre-K (4-Year-Olds)

**Goal:** 100% Washoe County Kids In Pre-K By 2028

## 3. Childcare – Availability And Affordability

**Goal:** Increase 11,000 To 15,000 By 2030

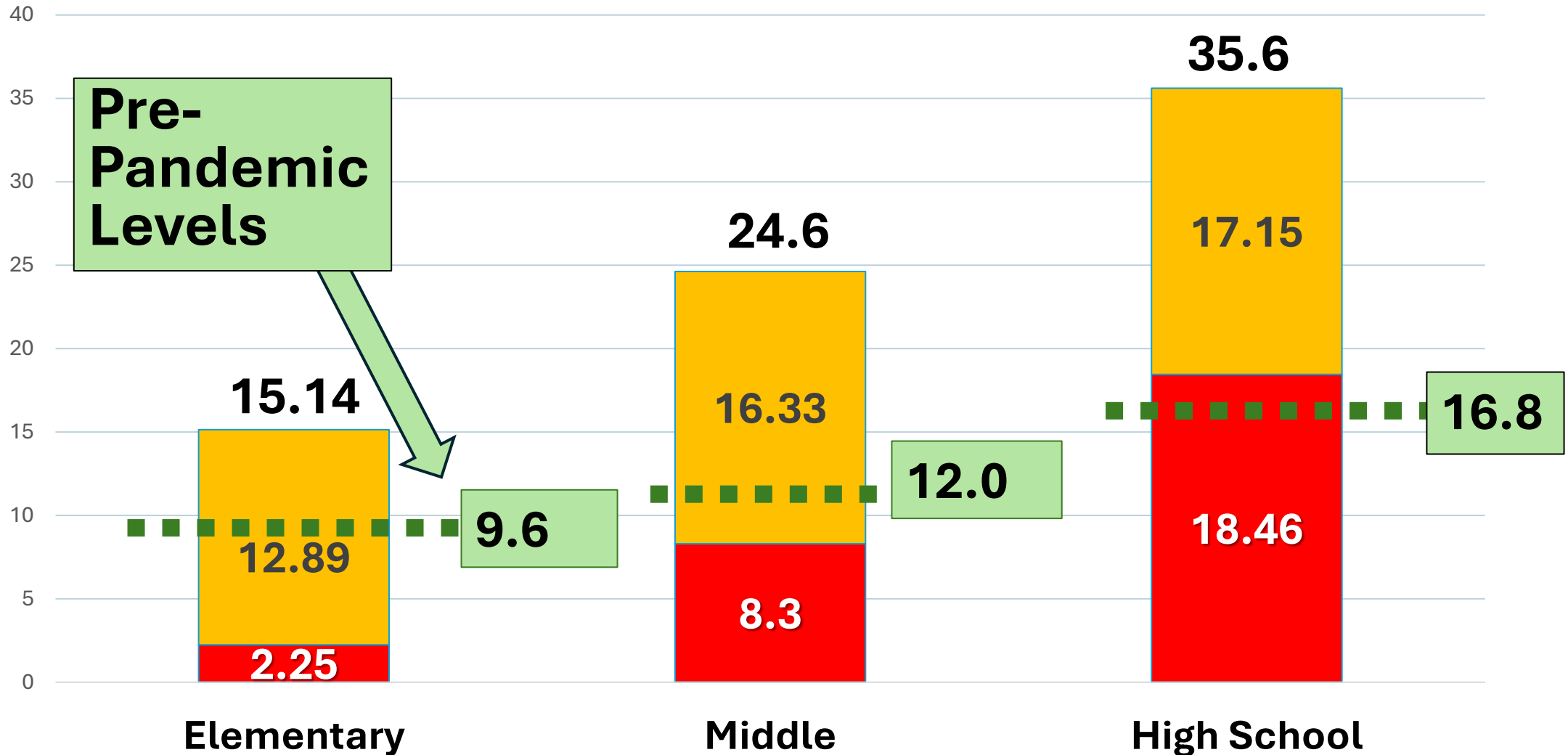


# **Chronic Absenteeism**

- **A Student Misses More Than 10% (18+ Days) Of A School Year**
- **More Than 110,000 Nevada Kids Are Chronically Absent**
- **In WCSD, The Average Is 33 Days Absent Out Of 180 Days**
- **Chronic Absenteeism Is The Gateway To Economic Hardship**
  - **Higher Unemployment Rates**
  - **Low Earnings As Adults (Minimum Wage Jobs)**
- **Chronic Absenteeism Has Cumulative Effects Compounding From One Year To The Next**

# WCSD In 2024: **23%** Of Students Absent

■ Severe (20% or 36+ Days)    ■ Chronic (10% to 20% 18 to 36 Days)



# Chronically Absent = Dropouts!

- Studies Show That Chronically Absent High School Students Are **7 Times More Likely** to Drop Out of **School**.
- Chronically Absent Kids In Pre–First Grade Are Unlikely To Read At Grade Level By 3rd Grade And **4 Times More Likely To Drop Out**.
- A 2001 Coalition For Juvenile Justice Report Found That **82% Of The Inmates In Adult Prisons Had Dropped Out** Of High School.
- The Average High School **Dropout** Costs Society More Than **\$800,000 Over The Course Of Their Lifetime:**  
*(The Center For American Progress, “The High Cost Of Truancy.”)*

# Chronic Absenteeism = Increased Crime

- High School Dropouts Are More Likely To Commit Crimes And Be Victims Of Crime
- According to *Henry & Huizinga's Research*, "Truants" Are:
  - 12 Times As Likely To Commit A Serious Assault
  - 21 Times As Likely To Commit A Serious Property Crime
- Of Juveniles Convicted Of Murder In New York Between 1978 And 1986, 89% Had A History Of Truancy
- San Francisco DA: 2004 To 2008 Found That 94 Percent Of Homicide Victims Under Age 25 Are High School Dropouts

# **The Incredible Cost Of Chronic Absenteeism**

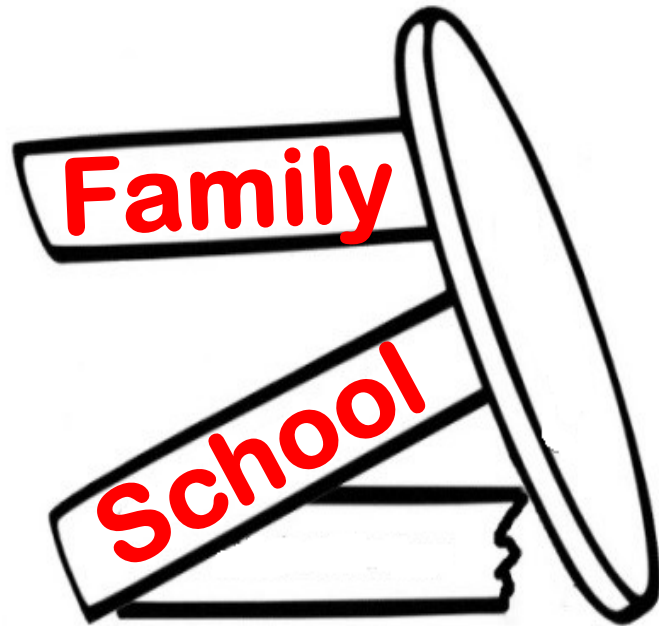
**(In Addition To The Tragedy Of A Life Lost To Poverty)**

- **Employers:** Results In **Workforce Shortages And Talent Scarcity**
- **Taxpayers:**
  - More **Crime** And The Justice System Utilization (Jails And Courts)
  - Perpetuates The **Cycle Of Poverty** And **Homelessness**
  - Increases The **Costs Of Social Services**
- **Schools/Students:** Curriculum Disruption **Negativity Impacts All Students** And An Increased Burden On Teachers
- **Community:** Poverty And Crime Impacts “Quality Of Life” **And Safety**

Applied Analysis Report **Cost Of Chronic Absenteeism \$20b** Over 20 Yrs!

# Time To Stabilize The Stool

Addressing Chronic Absenteeism Requires A Synergistic Response That Includes **Community Engagement**



# SoC Chronic Absenteeism Task Force

- **Members From:**

- Washoe County School District
- Washoe County
- Community In Schools
- Private Charter School – Doral Academy
- Education Alliance
- Reno Sparks Chamber
- Public Broadcasting Service

- **Six-Month Task Force**

- **Where Can The Community Help?**

- **Barriers To Attendance Identified**

- **Eight Initiatives With Goals And Solutions Identified**



# Task Force Identified Initiatives

- 1 A **Site Coordinator** Or Prevention Specialist At Every MS
- 2 Fund **Family Resource Centers (FRCs)** To Provide Basic Needs
- 3 Develop Innovative Approaches To **Transportation**
- 4 Expand Before And After School **Childcare**
- 5 Prevent Students From **Falling Behind** In Academics
- 6 **Educate Parents** On The Resources Available
- 7 Launch An **Awareness Campaign** On Impacts Of Absenteeism
- 8 Ensure Every Student Has Full-Time Teacher – **Teacher Appreciation**

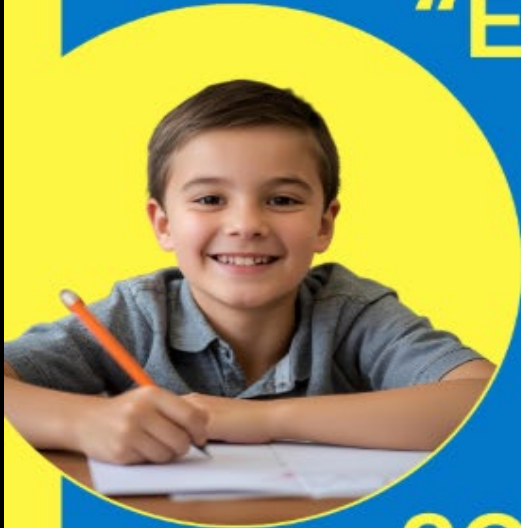
# **Additional Issues We're Monitoring & Working On!**

1. Provide on-site or near the school **healthcare for students**
2. Increase **mental health** support
3. Expand **before & after** programs to include extracurricular activities
4. Establish **no-phone policy in teaching areas, or in schools**
5. Engage mentors
6. Increase early intervention programs to prevent students from falling behind

# **Indy Ad – To Raise Awareness Ran for 90 Days - Oct To Dec 2025**

**Chronic Absenteeism 25.9% In Nevada**

**“Estimated \$20 billion cost  
to Nevada by 2044”**



**Read the Applied Analysis Report**



**2025 Nevada Budget Support  
Cut By 75%**

# **Broadcasters Association Video**

**Played Across The State 200 x On TV & 650 Radio/Mo**



# Questions?



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