

# Board of Education

**September 14, 2023**

**Dr. Darrin Slade  
Superintendent**

# Chronic Absenteeism



Chronic absenteeism is defined as a student missing more than 10 percent of the school year. Normally, this equals more than 18 days during the academic calendar.

# Chronic Absenteeism

- Michigan schools have the fourth highest chronic absenteeism rate in the country.
- Kalamazoo has a 27 percent chronic absenteeism rate.

Studies show that chronic absenteeism negatively impacts students of color and economically disadvantaged students the most.

We are going to intensify our efforts to address chronic absences, including having more contact with students and parents when pupils are chronically absent.

# All Schools Will Implement the Following to Address Absenteeism:

- Attendance Committees – These groups will meet at least twice a month to identify and address students with attendance and truancy issues.

- Improved Communication – Schools will increase phone calls and parent conferences related to attendance and truancy.

(Specifics will be shared at a later date.)



- “Knock and Talk Events” – These will occur throughout the year. The first will be held after the Oct. 4 Student Count Day for all “no shows” and students with more than 10 absences as of Oct. 1.
- Consequences – Student grades and participation in extracurricular events may be impacted by poor attendance.

**We have to take attendance seriously.  
Students cannot learn if they are not  
in school.**

# Questions?