

ORGANIZATION OF STUDENT ATTENDANCE (ANNUAL)

Overview

The Student Attendance (Annual) dataset includes student-level yearly records by school, which indicate the number of days a student has been absent and present for a given year in a given school.

In the file for each year, there will typically be one record per student. Students can have more than one record if they attended more than one school throughout the school year.

Each student has a unique student identification number, which can be linked across years.

Universe of students included in dataset

The dataset includes students in district schools (districts 1-32), as well as students in District 75 (special education).

Citywide attendance reporting excludes student records from District 79 (alternative schools and programs), District 84 (charter schools), District 88 (alternative learning centers), home school, community-based pre-K sites, district pre-K sites, and District 75 home and hospital sites. Transfer schools are included in citywide attendance calculations but excluded from student-level data files.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic and resulting shift to remote learning in March 2020, 2019-20 attendance data was only available for September 2019 through March 13, 2020.

Attendance Information/Policy

While schools set school-specific attendance policies, they all follow the standard attendance policies, where students are marked absent if they are not in school for at least one class period, and present otherwise.

For more information on attendance policy, see [here](#) and [here](#).

Calculating Attendance and Chronic Absenteeism

Attendance rates can be calculated by dividing total days present by total days.

- Numerator: total_pres
- Denominator: total_days

Students are considered chronically absent if they contribute at least 20 days of attendance and their attendance rate is less than 90 percent. Chronic absenteeism rates can be calculated by dividing the number of students who contributed at least 20 days of attendance with attendance rate < 90% by the number of students who contributed at least 20 days of attendance.

- Numerator: Count of all students who contributed at least 20 days of attendance with attendance rate < 90%
- Denominator: Count of all students who contributed at least 20 days of attendance (total_days >= 20)

Variables for chronic absenteeism need to be manually created and should be created at the desired aggregation level. For example, to find school-level chronic absenteeism:

1. Create a binary variable indicating whether a student should be included in the chronic absenteeism calculation (1 if total_days >= 20, 0 otherwise). Let's call this variable CA_denom.
2. Calculate attendance for each student and school. Since data is already by student by school, this is just total_pres/total_days.
3. Create another binary variable indicating whether or not a student is chronically absent (1 if attendance < 0.9 and CA_denom is 1, 0 otherwise). Let's call this variable CA.
4. Sum CA_denom and CA by school.
5. Divide CA by CA_denom for each school to get school-level chronic absenteeism.

DO NOT ROLL UP FROM A CERTAIN AGGREGATION TO FIND ANOTHER AGGREGATION'S CHRONIC ABSENTEEISM (i.e. don't try to find citywide chronic absenteeism by rolling up school-level chronic absenteeism numbers). This will result in double-counting.

Example file name: "2015-16_yearly_attd_scrambled.csv"

FIELD	DATA TYPE	FIELD DESCRIPTION	VALID VALUES
student_id_scram	Numeric	The student's non-personally identifiable tracking number. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Note: To ensure that all student IDs are 9 digits, import the variable as text to keep leading zeroes. 	Nine-digit integer.
dbn	String	The school code represented as a concatenation of the school district (D), school borough (B) and school number (N). Students are attributed to the diploma-granting school.	Alphanumeric in the format 'DDBNNN'.
grade_level	String	The student's grade level.	Two-character code indicating the student's grade level with the values of: PK, OK, and 01-12.
total_abs	Numeric	Total number of days the student has been absent.	Numeric value indicating the number of days the student was absent from school.
total_pres	Numeric	Total number of days the student has been present.	Numeric value indicating the number of days the student was present at school.
total_days	Numeric	Total number of days (absent + present).	Numeric value indicating the total number of days.