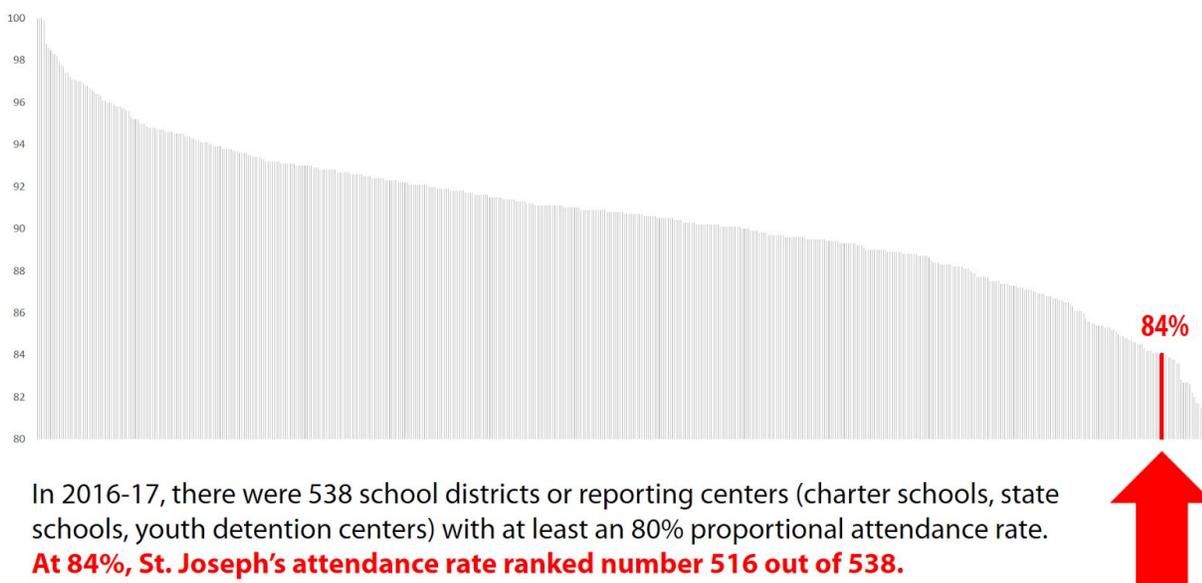


Identify the Gap and the Approach to Improve SJSD Attendance

Background

Beginning with the 2013-14 school year, the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education began requiring districts to track attendance at the individual student level (the percent of students attending 90% of the time) rather than by aggregate attendance rates (average attendance of all students). This policy was informed by the considerable research about chronic absenteeism, or whenever a student misses more than 10% of the school year.

Over the past four years, 83.9% of students in the St. Joseph School District have attended school at least 90% of the time. This percentage placed the SJSD's attendance in the bottom 7% of all Missouri districts during that time for a ranking of 518 out of 559 districts and reporting agencies. The majority of school districts meet the annual attendance target of 90% in Missouri. In fact, nearly 59% of school districts achieved proportional attendance rates of 90% or better in 2016-17.



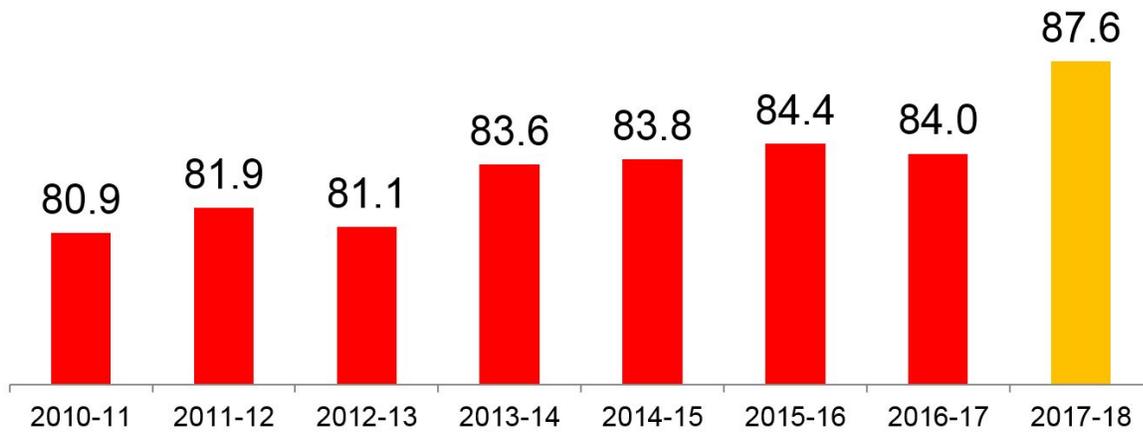
Goal-Setting

To address these concerns, a dialogue was opened with community groups about chronic absenteeism. Through the shared efforts of the United Way, Chamber of Commerce, Buchanan County Prosecuting Attorney, Social Welfare Board, Mosaic Life Care, and the SJSD, attendance became a topic of discussion in St. Joseph. Attendance at the high school level was included as part of a report to the school board on January 23, 2017. Additional information was shared with the community during the spring and summer through social media, blogs, and the local media.

On August 14, the SJSD launched an attendance initiative to combat the longstanding issue of chronic absenteeism. The initiative, known as "Strive for 5" is part of a strategic attendance improvement plan developed by district staff during the 2016-17 school year. Informed by the practices of high performing school districts in Missouri and recommendations from Attendance Works, the Strive for 5 initiative was designed to educate parents, students and community members on the effects of chronic absence and to establish a goal of less than five days absent per school year. The district target for proportional attendance during the 2017-18 school year was set at 87% of students attending 90% of the time.

This is not a one-year commitment from the district. In the years that come, the district is taking a multi-faceted approach towards identifying, understanding and eliminating underlying issues that feed chronic absence. Updates have been shared with stakeholders at www.strivefor5stjoe.com since the initiative's launch.

The chart below shows annual attendance rates in the St. Joseph School District since the 2010-11 school year.



Results from Year 1

Since the launch of the Strive for Five initiative, the SJSD has increased proportional attendance by 3.79%. At 87.62%, SJSD is now 5th amongst peer “best in class” comparisons.

Attendance Target for Year 2

For 2018-19, the SJSD plans to improve attendance by 3% with a target of 90.7% attendance.

Strategic Plan Aligned Goal (How is this aligned to the District Strategic Plan)

Identify SY19 SMART Objective: The SJSD will increase attendance from 87.62% to 90% in SY19 and achieve 10 points on the APR (this equates to moving 450 more students into the 90% category).

Create an Action Plan based on Data Analysis

What steps do you anticipate needing to take to reach this SY19 year SMART Goal?

What steps will you and your team take?	What data will be collected? How will you know the step is completed?	When will work be completed?	Person Responsible
<p>Develop a Community-wide Campaign to Raise Awareness of Chronic Absenteeism</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strive for Five Webpage • Present SJSD Chronic Absenteeism Success Story Locally, Nationally • Develop and Deploy SY19 Budget • Secure Funding • Deploy and Implement Strategic Plan 	<p>Monitor District Level Data</p> <p>Communicate to BOE, Community, and Partners.</p> <p>90.7% Districtwide Attendance</p>	<p>May 2018-ongoing</p>	<p>Director of Communications</p> <p>Director of School Improvement</p> <p>Director of Secondary</p> <p>Community Partners</p>

What steps will you and your team take?	What data will be collected? How will you know the step is completed?	When will work be completed?	Person Responsible
Data analysis for improvement <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strategies for Schools • Building Level Data • Building Level Strategic Plan 	District and school-level attendance teams Review chronic absenteeism data every 10 days that result in short-term action plans for improvement to be reviewed in principal cohort meetings or K-12	Deploy August 2018-ongoing	Director of Secondary Directory of Elementary Director of School Improvement
Use SJSJSD early warning systems for early and sustained intervention/remediation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Early Warning System 	Building-level, multiple-tiered system of support teams use early warning systems to intervene with consistent follow up	Deploy August 2018 with Training August 14	Director of Secondary Directory of Elementary
Professional Development <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cleveland Public Schools Success • Stanford Research on Partial Absence • Dr. Hedy Chang on Chronic Absenteeism 	Video toolkits Training	SY19	Director of School Improvement
School and programmatic based parent engagement to raise awareness of chronic absenteeism <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parent Engagement Toolkit • Bringing Attendance Home 	PTA Back to School Night Parents as Teachers Preschool Sporting events Secretarial training	SY19	Director of Communications Director of School Improvement Coordinator of Early Childhood Services Director of Non-Academics Support and Student Services Human Resources
Replicate Edison approach to “Walking School Bus” at additional high risk sites <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Walking School Bus • Edison • Building Level Data 	Reduced Chronic Absenteeism from 17.1% to 14.69% from SY17 to SY18 Goal for SY19 is a reduction of 11.69%	Deploy August 2018-ongoing	Director of Elementary Community Partners

What steps will you and your team take?	What data will be collected? How will you know the step is completed?	When will work be completed?	Person Responsible
<p>Focus on first and second grade connections to parents/families for early intervention</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Teachers Can Reduce Chronic Absence in First and Second Grade 	<p>1st Grade Chronic Absence: 11.65%</p> <p>2nd Grade Chronic Absence: 9.90%</p> <p>Goal SY19: Reduce by 3%</p>	<p>Deploy August 2018-ongoing</p>	<p>Director of Elementary</p>
<p>Focus on preschool attendance by raising awareness and developing a plan and approach to systemic reductions in chronic absence</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Every Day Counts in Pre-School • Pre-School toolkit • Develop policies and procedures 	<p>Reduce Chronic Absenteeism at the Pre-School level from 30.06% to 25% in SY19</p>	<p>Deploy August 2018-ongoing</p>	<p>Coordinator of Early Childhood Services</p> <p>Director of Non-Academics Support and Student Services</p> <p>Director of Communications</p>
<p>Develop strategies to address the increase of chronic absenteeism from grades 9 to 10 (from 14.1% to 22.4%)</p> <p>Reduce the rate of chronic absenteeism in grade 12 (27.6%)</p> <p>Develop Building Action Plans</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Success Mentors 	<p>Reduce grade 9 to 10 spike from 8.34% to 3%</p> <p>Reduce grade 12 absenteeism by 10%</p>	<p>Deploy August 2018-ongoing</p>	<p>HS Building Leaders</p> <p>Director of Secondary</p>
<p>District Policy/Procedures</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Revised late work policies for grades 7-12 (1 day per absence). • Mandatory summer school in grades 1-8 based upon chronic absenteeism and academic performance. • Revised weighted grading scale for grades 9-12. • Notification intervals based on tiered approach for grades K-8 and 9-12. 	<p>Checklist</p>	<p>Approved June 2017</p> <p>Continue implementation and integration</p>	<p>Director of Secondary</p>
<p>Evaluate District Systemic Approach</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Systemic Approach to Reducing Chronic Absenteeism 	<p>Checklist</p>	<p>Week of 4/30/18</p>	<p>District Administrators</p>

Review 30, 60, 90, 120 days

What next steps do you anticipate needing to take to reach this new year-long SMART goal?

What steps will you and your team take?	What data will be collected? How will you know the step is completed?	When will work be completed?	Person Responsible