

Macro Roundup Article

Headline: [Long COVID for Public Schools: Chronic Absenteeism Before and After the Pandemic](#)

Article Link: <https://www.aei.org/research-products/report/long-covid-for-public-schools-chronic-absenteeism-before-and-after-the-pandemic/>

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Tweet: 28% of American public school students missed at least 10% of the school year in 2022 up from 15% before the pandemic. The change was most pronounced in low-achieving school districts. @natmalkus @AEIecon

Summary: Chronic absenteeism is associated with lower standardized test scores. Studies have shown larger associations between chronic absenteeism and achievement in later grades than in earlier grades and in math than in reading. Nationwide, chronic absenteeism—the percentage of students missing at least 10% of a school year—surged from 15% in 2018 to 28% in 2022. Falling in 33 of 39 states reporting data, chronic absenteeism rates improved in 2023 but still remained 75% higher than the pre-pandemic baseline. Chronic absenteeism increased for all district types, but rates were highest in districts with low achievement and higher poverty, affecting over one in three students. In 2022, 16% of Asian students and 24% of white students were chronically absent, compared to 36% of Hispanic students and 39% of black students. The urgent need to recover from pandemic learning loss will be severely hampered by current rates of chronic absenteeism, making it the most pressing post-pandemic problem in public schools. Related: What the Data Says About Pandemic School Closures, Four Years Later and Parents Don't Understand How Far Behind in School Their Kids Are and NAEP Long-Term Trend Assessment Results: Reading and Mathematics

Primary Topic: Education

Topics: Database, Education, Important!, K-12, Op-Ed/Blog Post, Politics, Test Scores, Weekly, Workforce

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