We imagine a future where more California students come to school, feel connected, supported, and thrive as engaged learners.

Learn more about our work at hthdata.co/network

Custom Chronic Absenteeism Report

A Call to Action: Addressing Chronic Absenteeism Together

Thank you for generating your custom report on chronic absenteeism. By taking this step, you've shown a commitment to understanding and addressing one of the most pressing challenges in education today. When students miss school frequently, they are at risk of lower academic performance and future challenges such as poverty and unemployment. Chronic absenteeism also impacts teachers, schools, and districts, straining resources and disrupting learning environments. This is not news to those who work with or in schools. Many schools, districts, and organizations are striving to improve student attendance. However, efforts can often feel isolated and fragmented. Students across the state need us to work together to get better, faster.

To meet this challenge, the National Coalition for Improvement in Education (NCIE) at the High Tech High Graduate School of Education is launching a California statewide network in Fall 2025. This network will leverage continuous improvement capabilities across the state, fostering collaboration and collective understanding to tackle this issue at scale. By uniting students, families, schools, districts, researchers, government agencies, and community organizations, We can build a coherent system where **EVERY STUDENT** grows and flourishes **EVERY DAY**. Please complete this interest form so we can follow up with resources and invite you to join this community: hthdata.co/join To stay updated visit hthdata.co/network

Making Sense of Control Charts: Identifying Opportunities for Improvement

To interpret these control charts, start by examining the data points in relation to the centerline and the control limits. The **centerline** represents the average or central tendency of the data, while the **control limits** define the expected range of variation if the system is influenced solely by common causes. If all data points fall within these limits and no unusual patterns emerge (e.g., consistent upward or downward trends, clustering, or runs above or below the centerline), the variation is considered **common cause**—a natural fluctuation inherent to the system. In this case, improving outcomes would require addressing the broader design of the system rather than isolated adjustments. However, if data points fall outside the control limits or display non-random patterns, this indicates **special cause variation**, which suggests an external or unexpected factor is influencing the system. These instances require investigation to identify and address the specific causes, which may present opportunities for targeted improvement or learning from special causes.

By distinguishing between these two types of variation, you can avoid the pitfalls of overreacting to normal fluctuations or missing critical opportunities to intervene when something truly exceptional occurs. Use this knowledge to focus your efforts where they are most impactful, whether that means rethinking systemic processes or capitalizing on unique successes to replicate positive outcomes. The annotated control chart below provides a guide for identifying common or special cause variation.

For a deeper dive into control charts visit https://hthdata.co/control