Throughout Minneapolis schools, one in six students were chronically absent last year, meaning they missed time totaling nearly a month or more of school.

Chronic absenteeism starts in young kids, drops to lower levels in early elementary school, and then ramps up in middle school, hitting a peak in 12th grade.

That cycle of absenteeism mirrors the national trend of chronic absenteeism throughout grade levels, according to a 2012 study.

Native American students disproportionately have the highest numbers of chronic absenteeism in the district, followed by black students.

 The same 2012 study from the Everyone Graduates Center at Johns Hopkins University noted that chronic absenteeism widens achievement gaps.