



# Attendance Project

## Columbia Heights Public Schools

Bondo Nyembwe, Assistant Superintendent

January 28, 2025

Creating College and Career-Ready Graduates

### OUR MISSION

Columbia Heights Public Schools

Creating worlds of opportunity for each and every learner.

*"All Belong, All Succeed"*



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## CORE VALUES

### Community

*Where we all belong  
and believe in ourselves  
and each other*



### Excellence

*Being our best,  
expecting our best,  
every day*



### Collaboration

*Working together  
for common goals*



### Integrity

*Doing what is right,  
even when no one  
is watching*



### Respect

*Celebrating who we are,  
honoring our differences,  
treating others well*



### Courage

*Facing challenges with  
hope and persistence*



### Innovation

*Finding new ways  
to excel and grow*

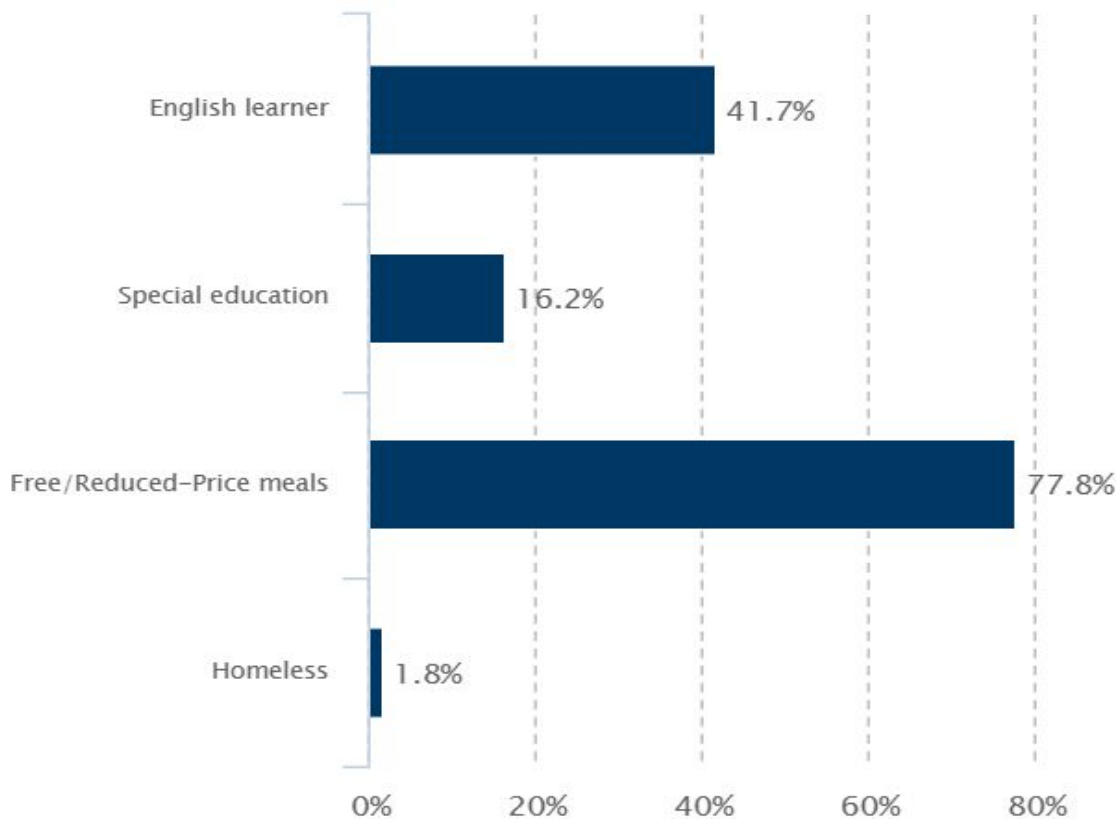


**The CHPS Core Values are aligned with the CHPS Board of Education Equity Statement.**

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# Enrollment



American Indian **2%**

Asian **3%**

African American **27.3%**

Hispanic **48.1%**

White **14.6%**

Two or more races **5.1%**

# GOAL

To increase the percentage of students who are consistently attending school from 68% in 2024 to 80% in 2026 district wide.

**Communicate**

**Educate**

**Humanize**

# 5 Strategies

## **Strategy #1**

Increase communication about attendance using various platforms.

## **Strategy #2**

Establish an attendance team (AT) at each school site

## **Strategy #3**

Increase sense of belonging for students to prevent chronic absenteeism

## **Strategy #4**

Implement Nudge Letters

## **Strategy #5**

Establish a 6:00 am health line for parents or guardians to call and talk to a medical professional.

# Strategy #1 Progress

**Increase communication about attendance using various platforms.**

- Send text using TalkingPoints
- Post “Attendance Matters” on every school marquee
- Use School events to remind students about attendance
- Send written communication weekly

- Create Attendance Matters videos in three languages for parents
- Create information sheets posted in key locations (English/Spanish)
- Create Attendance Matters videos in three languages for parents
- Send ALL calls three times per month

# Strategy #2 Progress

## Establish an attendance team (AT) at each school site

### Quarter 3 focus

- Root cause analysis using 2024-25 data
- Develop interventions

- Identify students with chronic and consistent absences
- Identify reasons why students are consistently absent
- Create strategies for supporting students
- Complete weekly phone calls for absent students
- At the end of the quarter send an Attendance Postcard
- Hired 4 Promise fellows as of January 6, 2025

**100% of the schools have completed this strategy**





If your child misses...	That equals...	Which is...	And over 13 years of schooling...
1 day every 2 weeks	20 days per year	4 weeks per year	Almost 1.5 years
1 day per week	40 days per year	8 weeks per year	Over 2.5 years
2 days per week	80 days per year	16 weeks per year	Over 5 years
3 days per week	120 days per year	24 weeks per year	Almost 8 years

To the Parent/Guardian of \_\_\_\_\_

You are being notified that your child has missed school without a valid, legally justifiable excuse throughout this school year. Columbia Heights Public School knows that showing up on time, every day leads to student success. CHPS staff members want to see your child here at school each day, learning alongside their peers.

<b>ABSENCES</b>	<b>Total Unexcused Days</b>	<input type="text"/>
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Attendance Line Number: \_\_\_\_\_

# Strategy #3 Progress

## **Increase sense of belonging for students to prevent chronic absenteeism**

### Quarter 3 focus

- Promise Fellows conduct focus groups to learn from students experiences

- Identify students with poor attendance, behavioral issues and low grades
- Assign a mentor to build strong relationships (Take Five Initiative)
- Monitor student performance across attendance, behavior and academics
- Provide personalized and timely interventions and build skills in specific areas
- Promise fellows work with 15-20 students

-100% of Licensed staff have been assigned 5 students to support.

-Non licensed staff have been assigned 3 students to support.

# Strategy #4 Progress

## Implement Nudge Letters

- Engaging parents or guardians in their child's school attendance
- Reducing student absenteeism by providing actionable insights and encouragement through letters
- Sending letters home starting in the second quarter

Not yet implemented

# Strategy #5 Progress

**Establish a 6:00 am health line for parents or guardians to call and talk to a medical professional.**

- Identify a qualified person
- Create a magnet and distribute to families
- Post information on CHPS attendance website
- Provide magnet or other information to teachers (facilitate communication with parents)

-Health line will go live on 2/7/2025  
-A licensed Registered Nurse has been identified  
-Magnets are under development

# Allocation of funds

- Hiring of Promise fellows (4) in secondary schools
- Home visit stipends for Home School Liaisons
- Training for Home School Liaisons
- Purchase of TalkingPoints for secondary schools
- Contracting a Registered Nurse
- Production of postcard and Marketing promotionals
- Printing of Marketing materials
- Postage

# Impact on attendance

1. School staff attendance communication has improved
2. Parents awareness of attendance expectations has improved
3. Students referred for truancy have decreased in quarter 1
4. Students referred for truancy have received services
5. Staff involvement to support attendance initiatives has increased