

# HEALTH, SAFETY, AND SCHOOL ATTENDANCE IN WASHINGTON, DC



## 27.3 PERCENT

of all DC students were chronically absent\* during the 2016-17 school year +



## 52 PERCENT

of DC high school students were chronically absent\* during the 2016-17 school year +

### ALL SCHOOLS

### HIGH SCHOOL



#### HOMELESSNESS

Students experiencing homelessness at some point during the year were **2.1 times more likely** to be chronically absent than their peers. +



#### FEELING UNSAFE

**10 percent** of all DC high school students report having missed school at least once in the past 30 days because they feel unsafe at school or on their way to or from school. >



#### OVER-AGE

Students who were over-age for their grade in school were **1.8 times more likely** to be chronically absent than their peers. +



#### VIOLENCE AT SCHOOL

Students at schools with high chronic absenteeism report having been in a fight on school campus at **2.5 times the rate** of students at schools with low chronic absenteeism. + >



#### ECONOMIC NEED

Students who receive SNAP or TANF benefits were **2.2 times more likely** to be chronically absent than their peers. +



#### HEALTH CONDITIONS

In schools with high rates of chronic absenteeism, **more than 1 in 3** high school students report having asthma. + >

\* Chronic absenteeism is defined as being absent – either excused or unexcused – for more than 10 percent of the instructional days a student was enrolled across all schools and sectors in a given school year. High chronic absenteeism is defined as schools where more than 75% of students are chronically absent. Low chronic absenteeism is defined as schools where less than or equal to 25% of students are chronically absent.

+ These data come from the 2017 Attendance Report. Read the full report here: <http://bit.ly/2S7AE3z>.

> These data come from the 2017 DC Youth Risk Behavior Survey. Read the full report here: <http://bit.ly/2017YRBSReport>.

HELPFUL RESOURCES



Want to help keep kids in school? Start with your school-based resources.

#### SCHOOL HEALTH SERVICES PROGRAM

DC Health provides school health services to more than 70,000 students in more than 175 DC public and public charter schools. School health suite staff collaborate with school personnel to provide basic health services and ensure student health needs are met during the school day. Contact your school nurse to discuss school-based care for children in need of short-term management of acute illness and injury, follow up, and chronic disease self-management support.

#### 504 COORDINATOR

The school 504 Coordinator works with parents and educators to make sure students with disabilities can access general educational programming. Some students may need a 504 plan to establish accommodations (for example extra time on tests, use of an inhaler) tailored to a child's unique needs. The 504 Coordinator can help create a plan and identify school personnel responsible for providing each accommodation.

#### SCHOOL HOMELESS LIAISON

Every school has a local homeless liaison to help families and children experiencing homelessness. The school homeless liaison can provide enrollment support; provide school supplies; assist the student with

medical, dental and other services; ensure free school meals; and coordinate transportation to and from school. A list of local liaisons is available on the OSSE website at <http://bit.ly/2D40kdb>.

#### BULLYING PREVENTION COORDINATOR

DC Public Schools and charter organizations have a designated point of contact for bullying who will ensure investigation of reported bullying or harassment incidents. All reports of bullying are investigated, and student supports are put in place in the mean-time. Depending on the results of the investigation, the school will address the behavior and provide additional supports necessary to students. Examples of these supports can include support plans for youth, counseling, and connections to a trusted adult. You can find your Bullying Prevention contact here: <http://bit.ly/2yvial9>.

#### SCHOOL MENTAL HEALTH PROGRAMS

DC Public Schools and public charter schools are providing and expanding school-based services to support students in strengthening their positive social, emotional, and behavioral skills and wellness. School-based mental health service providers play a number of roles at the school, such as providing topic work and discussions that promote self-awareness, responsible decision-making, relationship skills, and social awareness; working with small groups of students around specific skill building; and delivering some therapy services. Contact the school mental health clinician to discuss school-based care for students in need of unpacking and reducing barriers to concentrating and learning.

