



The Attendance Crisis in California Schools

Report prepared for the CA Department of Education
by School Innovations & Achievement

Opening Thoughts & Considerations

- Challenging return, rough start to school after winter break for students and staff
- Chronic absenteeism was increasing prior to COVID
- What story is today's data or your own data telling?
- Data is telling us that connections with families and communication is critical
- How are you communicating now, this spring, moving forward?
 - Do you need to pivot?
- Large majority of absences are recorded as “unverified” or “unexcused”
 - Do we know the why? Are we making assumptions on why and who?
- When students are out, are we acknowledging the learning loss, stress on families and offering support or guidance?

Preliminary Chronic Analysis



In fall 2020, SI&A was asked by the California Department of Education (CDE) to analyze preliminary chronic absence patterns and trends (year to date) for a sample of SI&A's California Attention2Attendance (A2A) district partners during distance learning.

How SI&A Calculates Chronic Absences

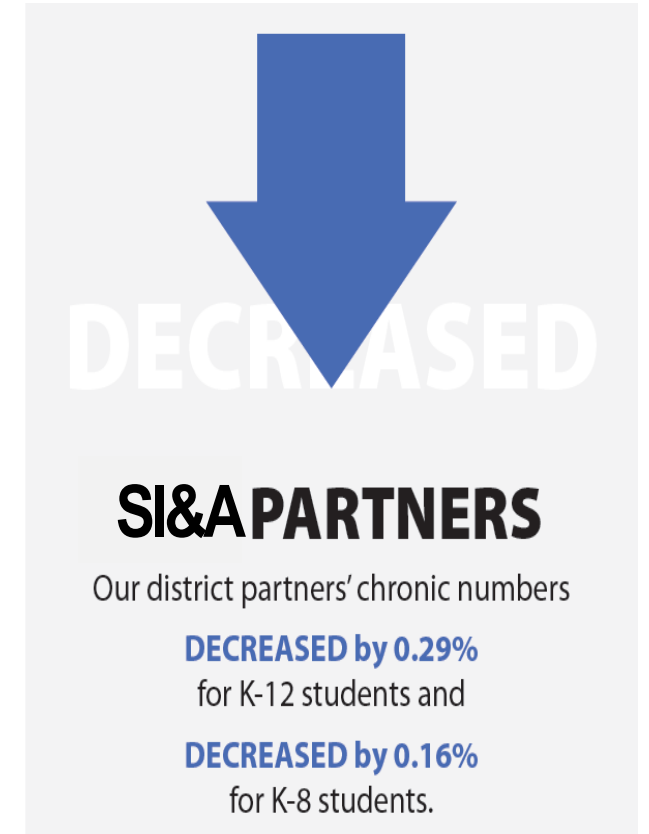
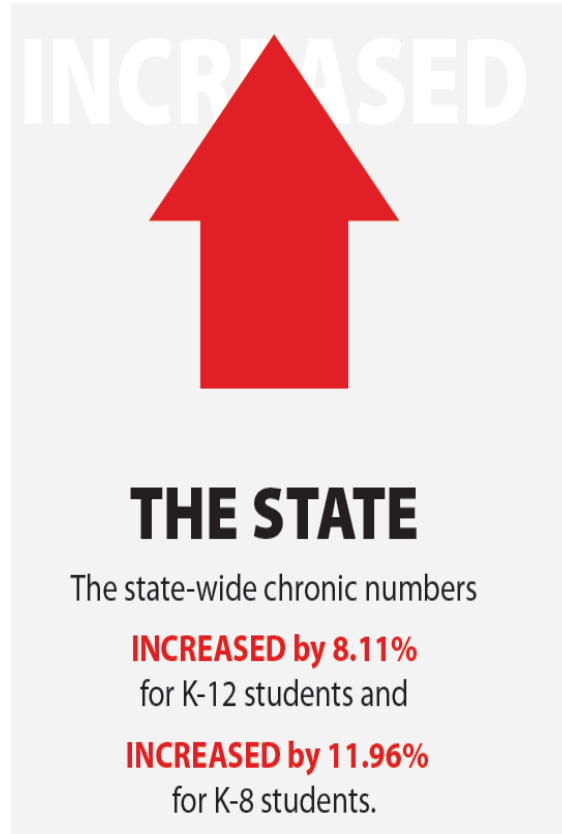
- **SI&A calculates chronic absenteeism differently than the CA Dashboard:**

- Our program, The Achievement Initiative includes all students in all grades including PK/TK and high school grades 9-12
- Our chronic absence rate includes all active students
- We include all students regardless of how many days enrolled
- A2A calculates on a day equivalent basis, weighting partial days absences
- ***Based on these differences, SI&A chronic rates include more students than the California Dashboard***

Even with all these considerations...

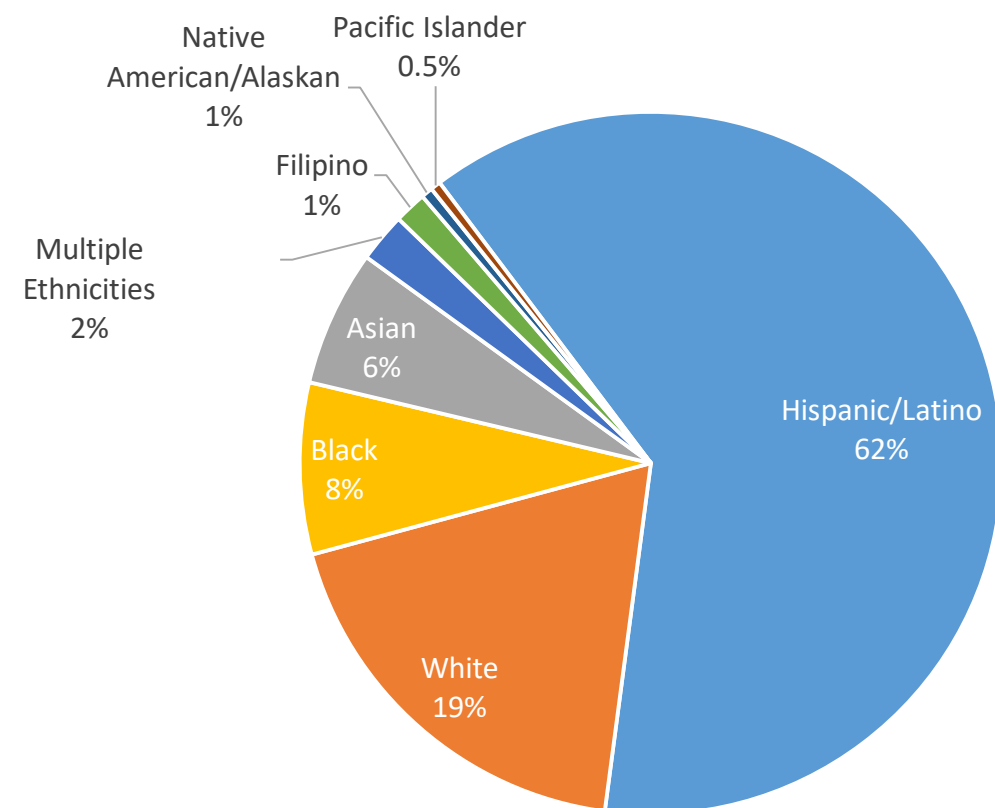
SI&A District Chronic Absence Rates are Lower

- It's important to note, although the early data shows an increase in chronic absentee rates our districts, we know that SI&A districts have better results than other districts.
- In fact, SI&A district partners outperformed the State in chronic rates when looking at the CA Dashboard chronic absenteeism rate change from 2017-18 to 2018-19.



Dataset Demographics Match California's Enrollment

Demographic Breakdown of the Dataset

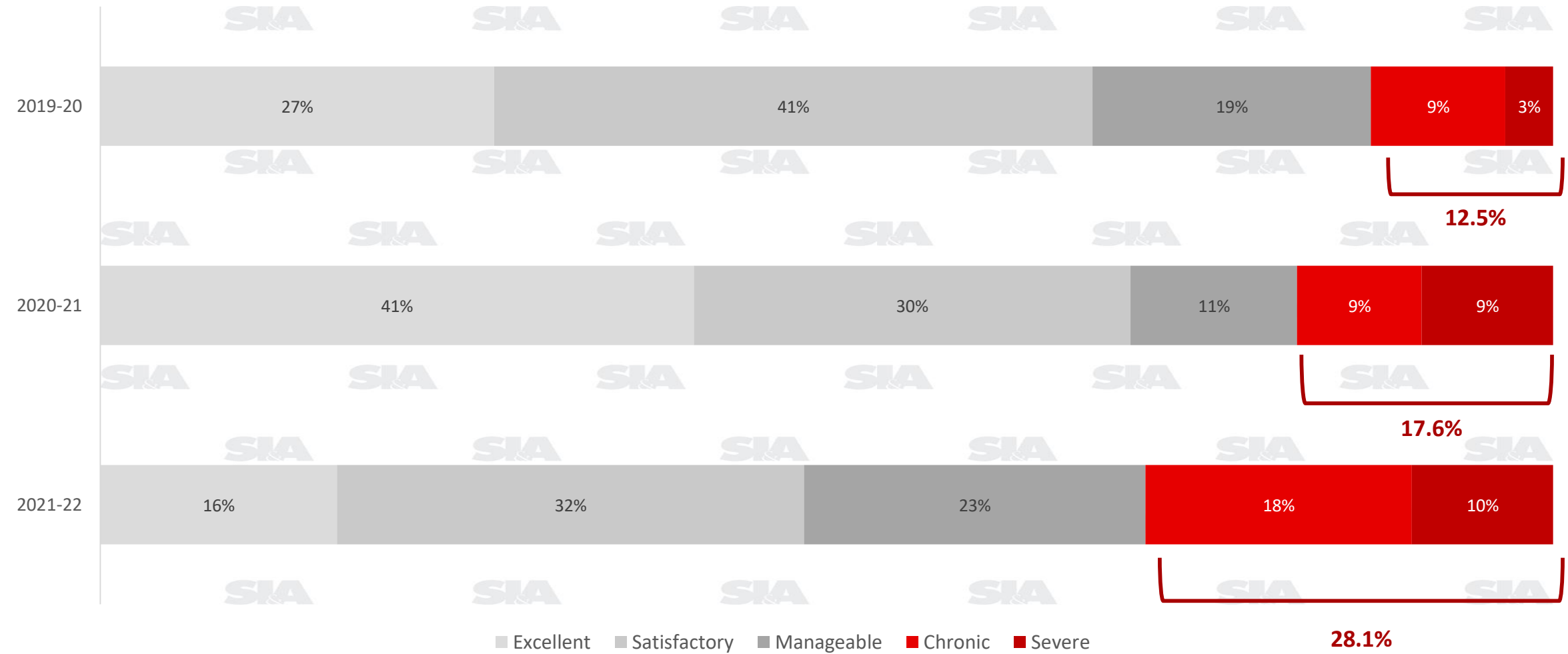


The CA dataset includes:

- More than 320,000 students
- Across 17 counties
- Racial/ethnic composition that mirrors CA enrollment

Race/Ethnicity	Percent of Population
Hispanic/Latino	62%
White	19%
Black	8%
Asian	6%
Multiple Ethnicities	2%
Filipino	1%
Native American/Alaskan	1%
Pacific Islander	0.5%

The Attendance Crisis Has Gotten Worse



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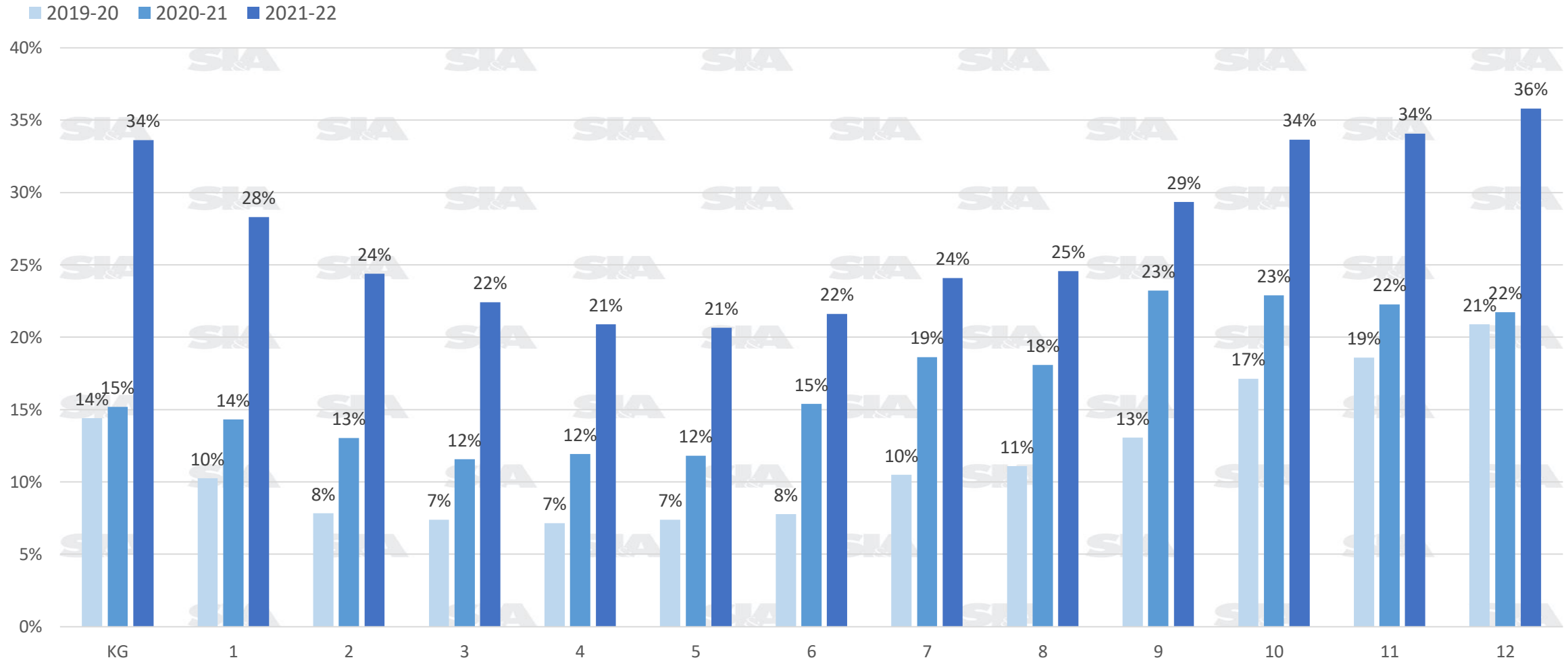
Chronic Rates Comparison by District Type

- Unified School Districts have the largest rate of increase in chronic rates.
- High School Districts have the highest chronic rate (37% of their students are chronically absent).

				Dec 2020 vs. Dec 2021	
District Type	Dec 2019 Chronic Absence Rate	Dec 2020 Chronic Absence Rate	Dec 2021 Chronic Absence Rate	A2A Rate of Increase	Est. Non-SIA Rate of Increase
ESD	10.5%	16.0%	26.4%	64.6%	140.2%
HSD	17.7%	26.8%	36.8%	37.3%	68.7%
USD	11.2%	14.5%	25.1%	72.8%	130.6%

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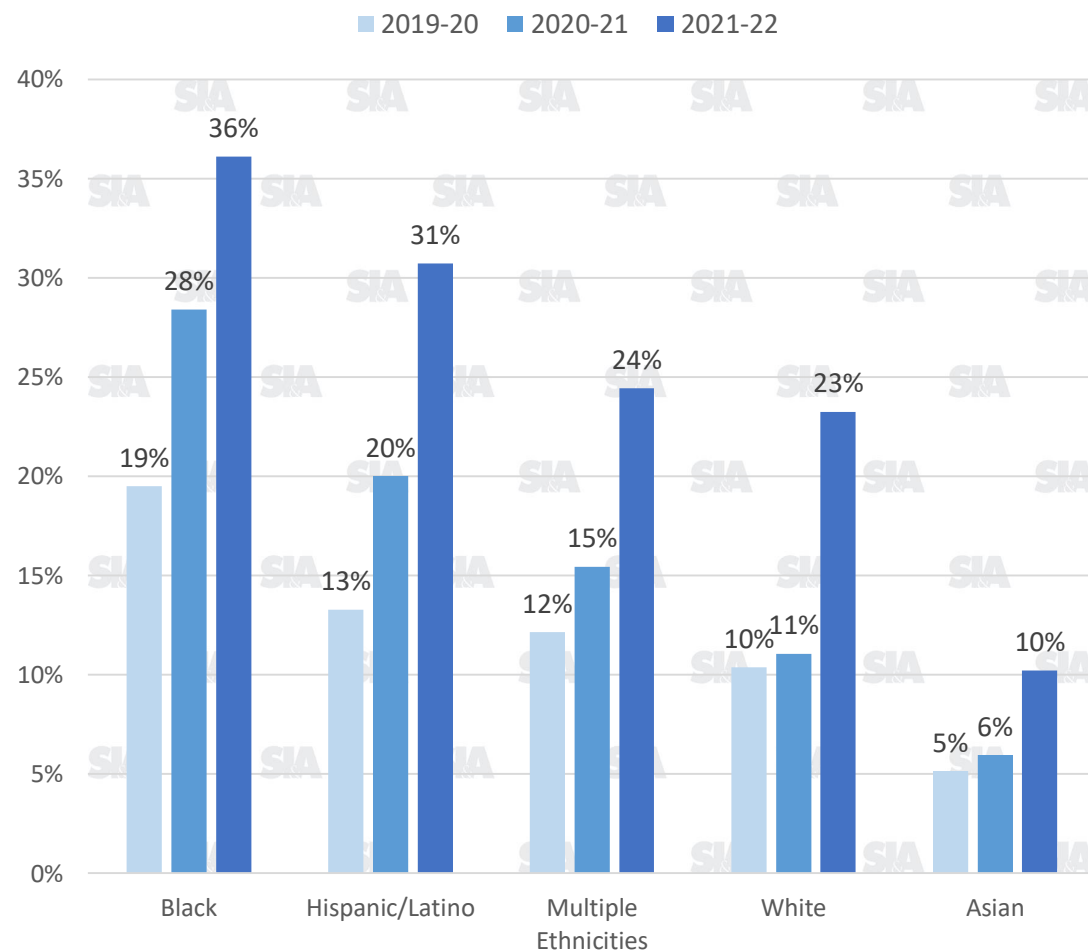
Chronic Absences Are Far Worse in Every Grade



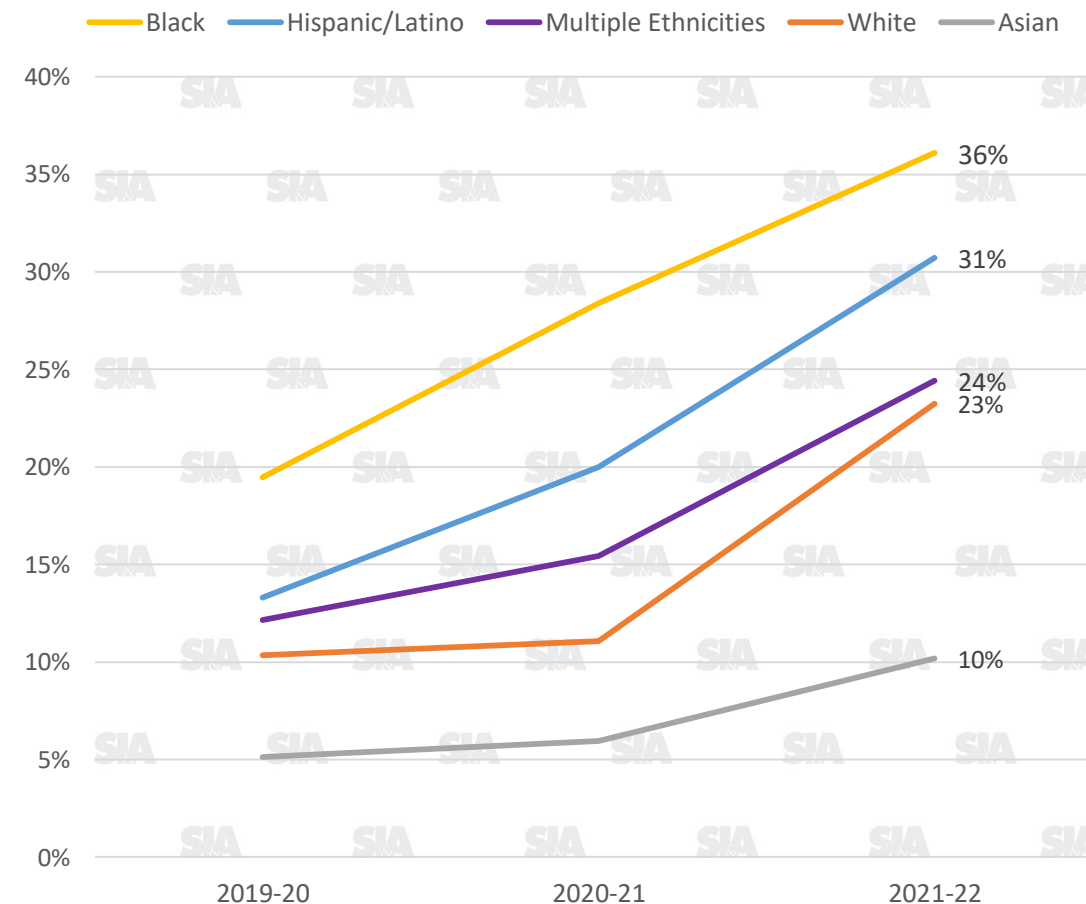
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Chronic Absences Highest for Black & Hispanic Students

Chronic Absence Rates by Top 5 Ethnicities by Year



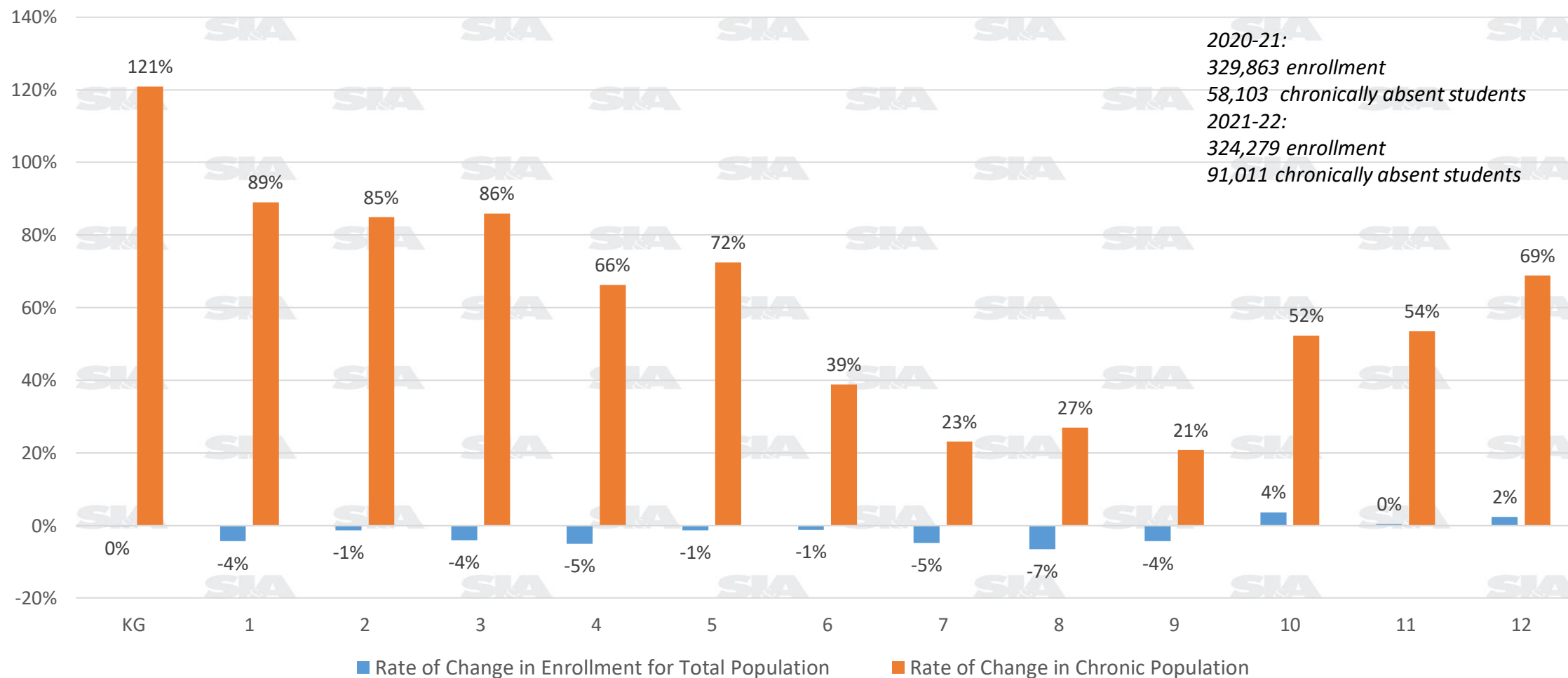
Relative Chronic Absence Rate Trends by Top 5 Ethnicities



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Enrollment Down & Chronic Absences Up in Every Grade

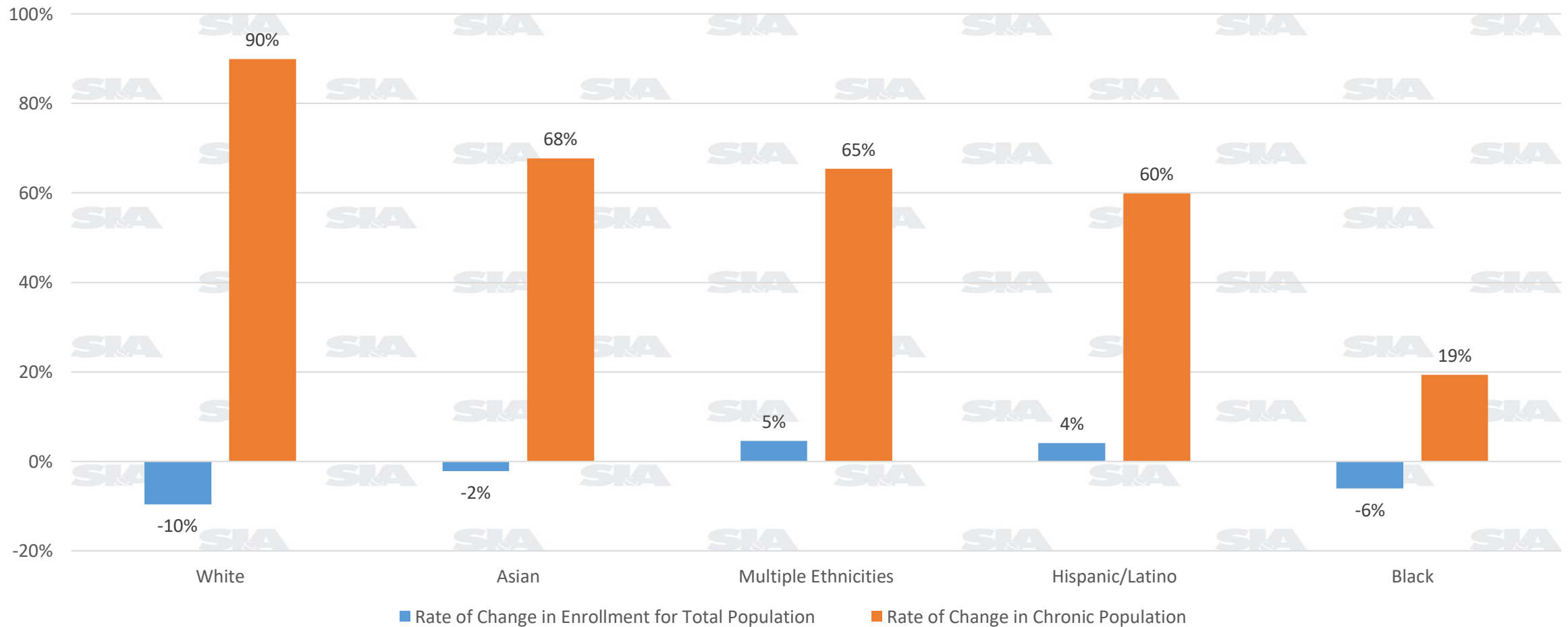
Rate of Change/Growth Rate in Enrollment & Chronic Absences by Grade from
YTD 2020-21 to YTD 2021-22



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Rate of Change/Growth Rate in Enrollment & Chronic Absenteeism by Top 5 Ethnicities

YTD 2020-21 vs. YTD 2021-22



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Additional Data: English Language Learners; Free & Reduced Lunch Subgroups

Language Designation				Dec. 2020 vs. Dec. 2021		
Subgroups	Dec 2019 Chronic Absence Rate	Dec 2020 Chronic Absence Rate	Dec 2021 Chronic Absence Rate	Increase in Chronic	Rate of Increase	Est. Non-SIA Rate of Increase
English Language Learner	14.2%	23.9%	29.7%	5.8%	24.4%	59.5%
Non English Language Learner	12.3%	15.8%	28.0%	12.2%	76.9%	130.1%

All groups saw increases in chronic rates.

The Non-ELL population had an increase in chronic rates that was two times as large as the increase in chronic rates for English Language Learners. Essentially, non-ELL students have 'caught' up.

Lunch Status				Dec. 2020 vs. Dec. 2021		
Subgroups	Dec 2019 Chronic Absence Rate	Dec 2020 Chronic Absence Rate	Dec 2021 Chronic Absence Rate	Increase in Chronic	Rate of Increase	Est. Non-SIA Rate of Increase
Free & Reduced Lunch	15.7%	22.9%	35.0%	12.1%	52.7%	89.3%
Paid Lunch	8.7%	9.5%	21.4%	11.9%	125.9%	214.4%

Both populations saw an increase of around 12% in their chronic rate. The F&R Lunch population continues to have a larger chronic rate compared to students that pay for lunch.

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*Non English Language Learner status includes any student who is not currently categorized as English Language Learner status

Foster Care Subgroup

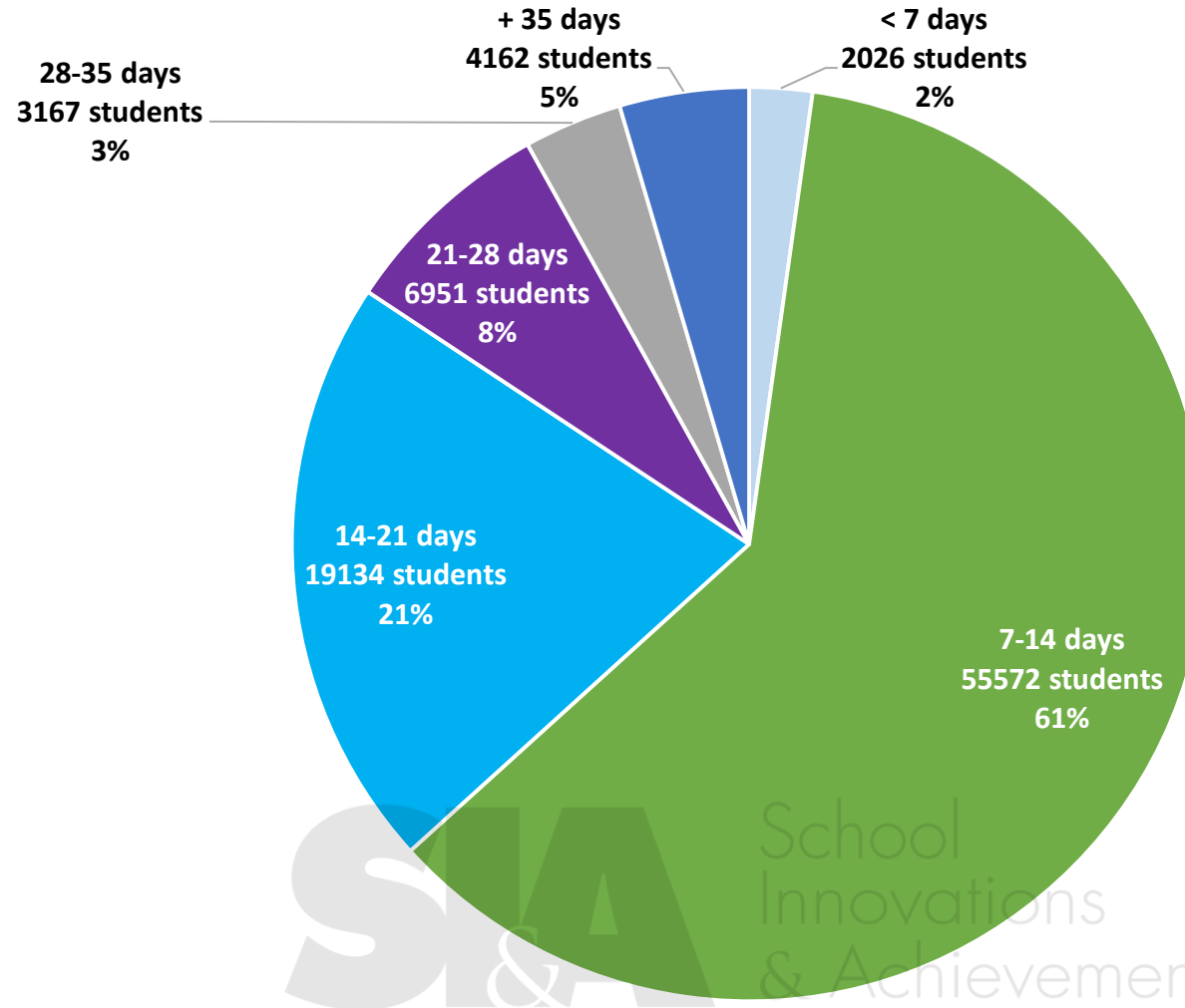
The permanent housing population has an increase in chronic rates that is almost 1.2 times larger than the foster care population.

				Dec. 2020 vs. Dec. 2021		
Subgroups	Dec 2019 Chronic Absence Rate	Dec 2020 Chronic Absence Rate	Dec 2021 Chronic Absence Rate	Increase in Chronic	Rate of Increase	Est. Non-SIA Rate of Increase
Foster Care	16.5%	20.7%	32.8%	12.1%	58.6%	99.3%
Permanent Housing	10.2%	12.4%	27.5%	15.1%	121.7%	189.3%

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**Permanent Housing status includes any student who is not categorized as Foster Care status*

Number of Days Missed by Chronically Absent Students

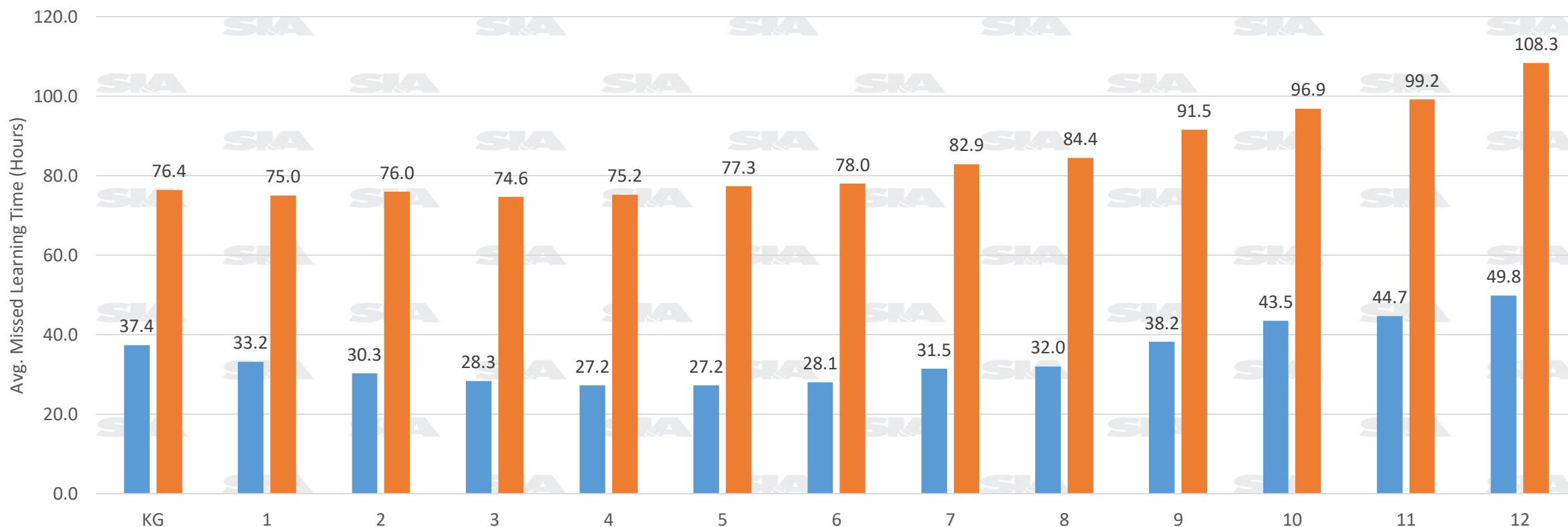


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Average Missed Learning Time by Grade

■ Average Student ■ Chronic Student

Avg. Instructional Hours: 429 Hours

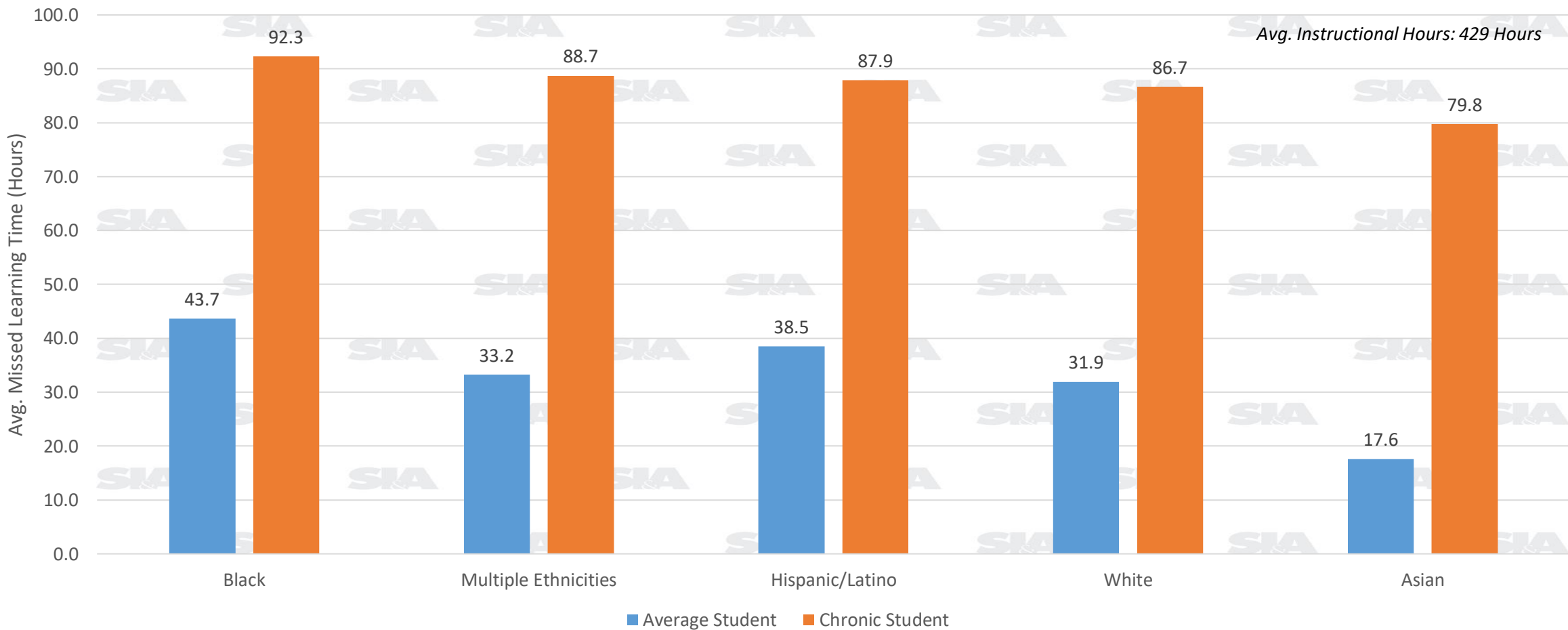


Learning time calculated by multiplying total days missed by 6 hours in a school day

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Missed Learning Time Highest for Students of Color

Average Missed Learning Time by Top 5 Ethnicities



Learning Time Calculated by Multiplying Total Days Missed by 6 hours in a school day
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To Leadership: **It's not too late!**

78% of these chronic students do not have to end the year chronically absent

“Showing up” is a skill, a habit that we can help students build. The majority of student do not have to end the year as chronically absent if policies, processes at scale and systems of support are enacted to keep kids in school now and through out their school career.

** Based on 18 days missed by the end of the school year will land a student in the chronic absence category*

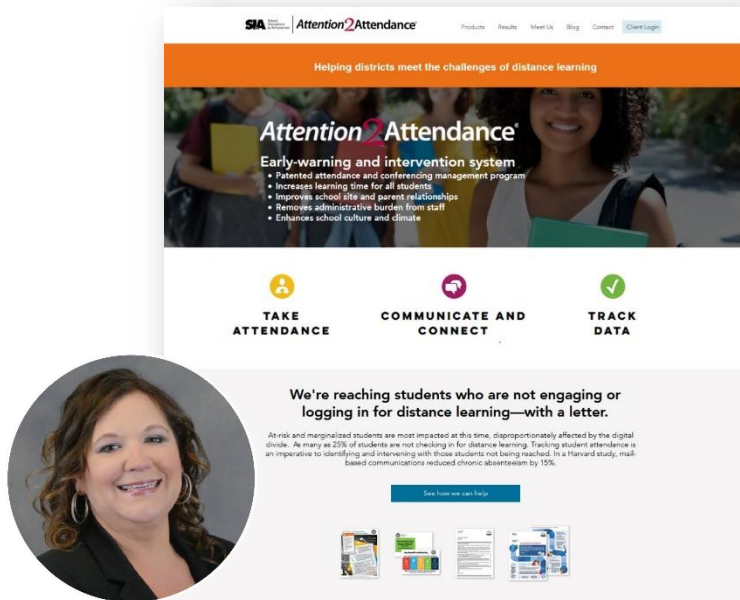


Closing Thoughts

- It may sound tempting to slow/stop communication, but now is the time to increase messaging, celebrate successes and offer support to families
- We know this isn't going away tomorrow, plan for the long game
- Invest in connections and in your missing students

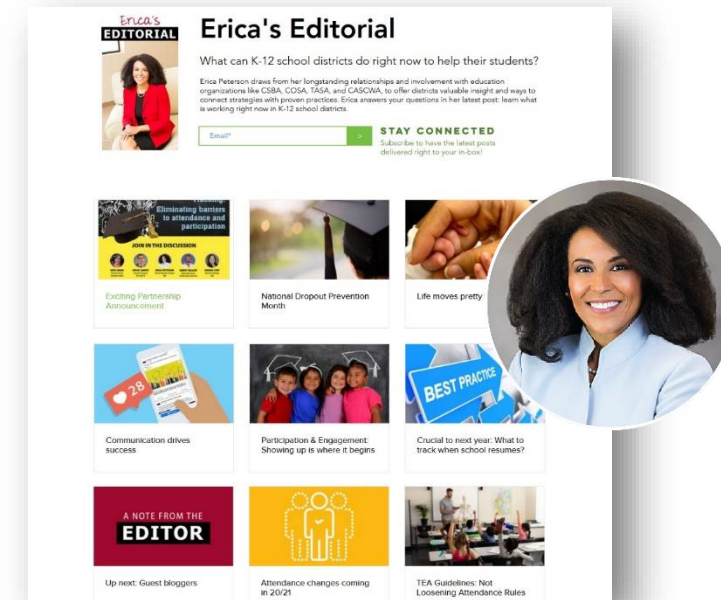
Resources

Attention2Attendance



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Attendance Blog



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