



Chronic Absenteeism vs. Average Daily Attendance

Understanding the difference in terms

In working with Oregon's Department of Education, districts may have questions relating to different attendance terms. A common one relates to *Chronic Absenteeism*. Districts may need clarification specifically about how it differs from *Average Daily Attendance*.

The attendance term *Chronic Absenteeism* relates to individual student records-has a student missed 10% or more of their scheduled days? *Average Daily Attendance* looks at the percentage of all students' attendance on a given day aggregated for the year. *Chronic Absenteeism* is also expressed as a percentage but it's calculation is the percentage of students who have missed 10% or more of their scheduled days.

- Students that have missed at least 10% of their scheduled days from their date of enrollment at the school or district through May 1 are determined to be *Chronically Absent*. Students that have not missed at least 10% of their scheduled days are *Regular Attenders*.
- For students to count in a district's *Chronic Absenteeism* rate, they need to have been enrolled in the district for at least 75 days and be enrolled in the district on May 1.
- The count of all students that are chronically absent is divided by the total student population (as required in the point above) to arrive at a percentage of students that are chronically absent. The inverse of that, the percentage of students that are not chronically absent, is called the *Regular Attender* rate.

In contrast, *Average Daily Attendance* is a running figure that records the percentage of students each day who are present and combines them for the number of days that the district has held school to date. High *Average Daily Attendance* rates may still produce high *Chronic Absenteeism* rates since student attendance above 90% offset those that are chronically absent.

Example:

- District A has 1000 students on May 1st.
 - 400 of them have a 95% attendance
 - 200 of them have a 93% attendance
 - 200 of them have a 89% attendance
 - 200 of them have a 88% attendance
- District A has a 92% *Average Daily Attendance* rate
- District A has a 40% *Chronic Absenteeism* rate

More information about how students are counted as absent/present and how to report student's attendance overall can be found in the Cumulative ADM manual found [here](#).