

I.D.iv Attendance Rates

Attendance rates are an additional measure used in Maryland's Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) calculations.

Based on the Examination of the Attendance Data (Table 5.5):

Table 5.5: Attendance Rates									
Annual Measurable Objective (AMO):	94%	94%	94%	94%	94%	94%	94%	90%	
Subgroups by Level	2002-2003	2003-2004	2004-2005	2005-2006	2006-2007	2007-2008	2008-2009	2009-2010	
All students	Elementary	94.5	94.9	94.5	95.2	95.5	95.3	94.9	94.4
	Middle	92.9	91.8	92.8	92.7	92.7	93.4	93.5	93.2
	High	94.5	91	90.8	90.9	92.2	92.6	92.8	92.3
African American	Elementary	95.4	95.5	95.2	95.8	96.1	96.1	95.6	95.1
	Middle	93.8	94.1	93.9	93.4	92.8	93.5	93.4	93.2
	High	94.9	91.8	91.3	91.4	93.1	94.0	93.7	92.8
American Indian/Alaskan Native	Elementary	0	0	0	0	0	99.2	98.8	95*
	Middle	0	0	0	0	0			0
	High	0	0	0	0	0	94.8	94.2	94.2**
Asian/Pacific Islander	Elementary	94.8	94.4	95.2	88.2	95.4	95.2	95.8	94.4
	Middle	98.6	94.2	0	0	0	91.9	97.3	97.1
	High	0	96.2	95.7	99.1	0	96.3	100.0	99.6**
Hispanic	Elementary	92.9	95.2	95.6	95	96	96.2	94.8	95.6
	Middle	81.6	89.3	91	89.3	91.5	95.6	95.2	92.6
	High	0	85.9	85	90.3	90.1	90.0	92.3	94
White (Not of Hispanic Origin)	Elementary	93.8	94.3	93.7	94.7	94.8	94.3	94.1	93.6
	Middle	92.2	89.9	91.9	92.3	92.7	93.0	93.3	93.2
	High	94.2	90.2	90.4	90.3	91.6	91.6	92.1	91.8
Free/Reduced Meals (FARMS)	Elementary	94.3	94.7	94.3	95	95.3	95.0	94.7	94.1
	Middle	92.1	90.9	91.7	91.6	91.2	92.5	92.4	92.5
	High	94	90.1	90	90.1	91.2	91.6	92.1	90.8
Limited English Proficient (LEP)	Elementary	95.4	96.9	95.9	93.9	95.6	96.5	95	95.5
	Middle	85.7	92.5	90.2	85.9	91.7	97.6	93.5	89.2
	High	96.7	0	0	0	0	98.6	94.8	97.9
Special Education	Elementary	93.7	94.8	94.1	94.6	94.9	94.1	94.6	93.5
	Middle	92.8	90.3	92	92	91.6	92.2	91.9	91.4
	High	93.3	88.1	87.8	86.4	88.9	89.3	90.7	90.5

* 4 students

** 2 students

1. Somerset County is Experiencing Progress in Increasing Attendance Rates.

a. Most subgroups met the target for 2009-2010.

- Since the AMO for this year was reduced to 90% due to the absences related to the flu, all groups on SCPS schools met the target with the exception of middle school LEP students.

b. Several subgroups improved attendance over last year.

- Elementary Hispanic students increased 0.8%.
- High school Hispanic students up increased 1.7%.
- Middle school FARMS students up increased 0.1%.
- Elementary LEP students increased 0.5%.
- High school LEP students increased 3.1%.

2. The Practices, Programs and Strategies Which Contributed to Progress in Attendance Rate:

a. Somerset County Public Schools maintained or increased staff who work directly with student attendance.

- Maintained Attendance Clerks at the two high schools.
- Added attendance clerks to the elementary schools to track student attendance and keep parents informed of students’ attendance status.
- Maintained LST’s originally funded by the Safe Schools/Healthy Students grant.

b. SCPS used a variety of strategies to improve attendance levels of students.

- Continued school counselor interventions (parent conferences, group counseling, monitoring of attendance data, etc.)
- Contracted with Connect Ed to provide a system that would send out automated phone calls each evening to the homes of students who were absent.
- Continued referrals to Truancy Court for intervention and support.
- Included attendance data in the PBIS incentive program.
- Case management by Learning Support Teams for students with significant barriers to consistent school attendance.

CATEGORY	STRATEGY, PROGRAM, OR PRACTICE AND PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT	FUNDING SOURCE, AND AMOUNT
Professional Development	PBIS Conference	Source: Safe Schools Healthy Students Grant Cost: \$1,046
Staffing	Attendance Clerks at 2 High Schools	Source: Local and ARRA (stimulus) Cost: \$34,158

Staffing	Attendance responsibilities assigned at 3 elementary schools	Source: Local and ARRA (stimulus) Cost: \$58,584
Staffing	Counselors, LSS to Case Manage students with attendance issues	Counselors Source: Local Cost: \$499,559 LSS Source: Local Cost: \$234,131
Contracted Services	Connect Ed	Source: Local and Community Funds Cost: \$6,676

3. Challenges of Increasing Attendance Rates:

a. Smaller populated subgroups seemed to decline in attendance.

- Middle school LEP students had the largest decline in attendance from last year (4.3%)
- Middle school Hispanic students (2.6%) followed by Asian elementary students (1.4%), high school FARMS students (1.3%) and elementary SE students (1.1%) dropped more than one percent over last year.

4. Changes or Adjustments That Will be Made

a. SCPS will continue to fund staff and services.

- Continue with attendance clerks at all levels
- Continue the Connect Ed contract
- Maintain all counseling, LSS and other support staff

b. SCPS will continue to work with parents.

- Continue to educate parents about the importance of regular school attendance
- Increase communication between LEP staff and families in their home language
- Target attendance concerns in ELL and IEP discussions, including a review of the data.

c. School staffs will continue to search for effective strategies to increase attendance.

- **Utilize data analysis of the attendance rates for each subgroup to help determine areas of need as well as possible interventions**
- Beyond Diversity training for A & S staff.

CATEGORY	STRATEGY, PROGRAM, OR PRACTICE AND PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT	FUNDING SOURCE, AND AMOUNT
Continue to fund attendance clerks at the 2 high schools Timeline: August 2010-June 2011	Staffing	Source: Local and ARRA (stimulus) Cost: \$35,348
Continue the attendance responsibilities clerks at the elementary schools for the IEP Clerks Timeline: August 2010-June 2011	Staffing	Source: Local ARRA (stimulus) Cost: \$60,490
Continue to utilize truancy court Timeline: August 2010-June 2011	Collaboration with Outside Agencies and Staff Time	Staff Time Cost: \$0
Beyond Diversity Training Timeline: August 2010 – June 2011	Professional Development	Source: State Fiscal Stabilization Cost: \$50,000
Continue <i>Connect Ed</i> automated attendance contact program at all schools. Timeline: September, 2010-June, 2011	License Agreement	Source: Community Support and Local Funds Cost: \$7,025