

# From Insights to Impact: Data-Driven Strategies for Student Support



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# Who are we?



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# Demographics



Population of 131,700 across 4 counties (Franklin, Johnson, Massac, and Williamson)

Population of 13,960 (Note: There are 2 school districts in Massac County)

ROE services about 19,050 students in our 4 counties

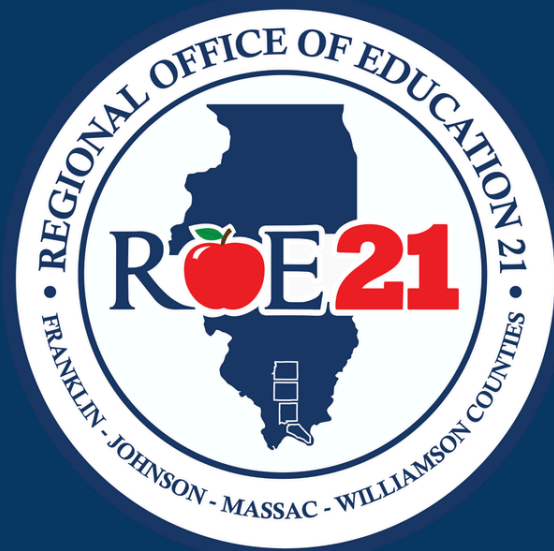
Massac Unit #1 services about 1,850 students (PK-12)

22 School Districts, 58 buildings

8 buildings

Average of 56.6% low income vs state average of 49.8%

63.6% low income



Saving Students  
One Absence at a Time



The Partnership Against Chronic Truancy (PACT) Intervention Program is a collaborative effort between the ROE, local school districts, the alternative school administration, and various government and social service agencies. Collaboration is the key to a student's academic, social emotional and personal successes.

Members of the PACT team are all key stakeholders in the local area and have primary responsibilities for servicing the youth in the region.

The PACT Team includes:

- Student
- School representative(s)
- Teacher(s)
- Parent/Guardian(s)
- ALOP Student Advocates
- Truancy Interventionist(s)
- ROE Social Worker
- McKinney-Vento Liaison

# Dropping out is rarely a single event. It is a compounding of pressures.

## The Academic Deficit

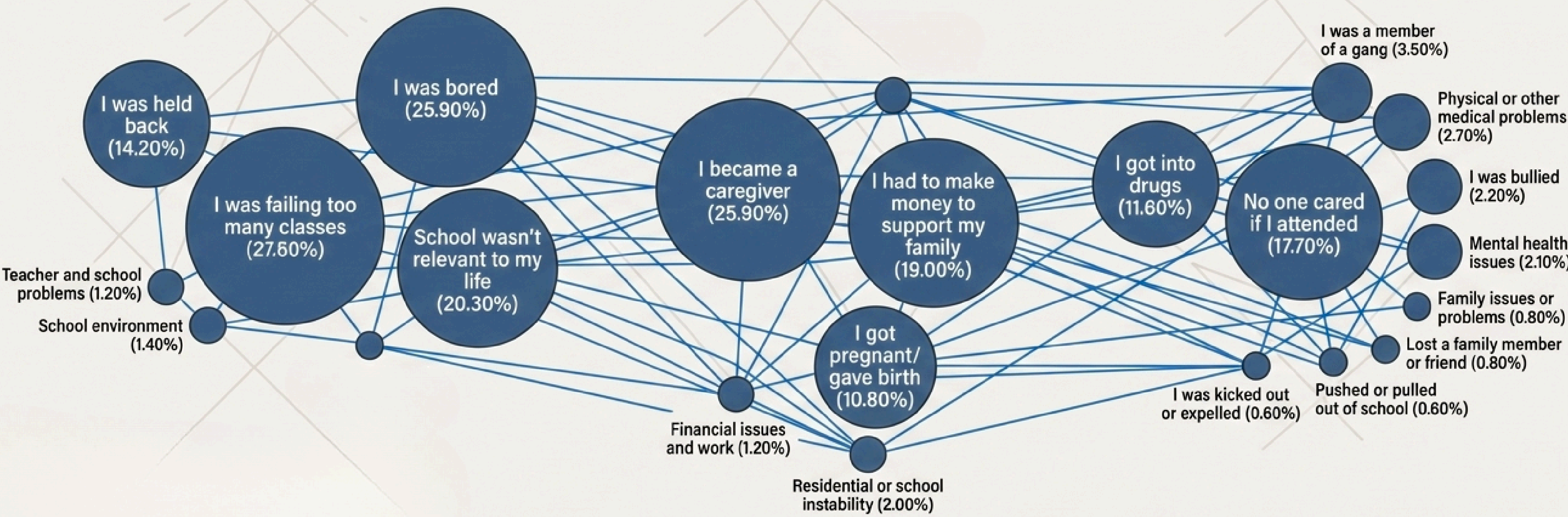
Failing grades and irrelevance

## The Adult Burden

Outside responsibilities

## The Social/Emotional Void

Isolation and hidden struggles





# The Role of Technology

- Data Points: Academic Performance, Attendance Records, Search History, Messaging, Social Media Activity
- Pattern Recognition: Various systems (for example, web filters) can analyze data to identify patterns and trends indicating potential risks
- AI: Can provide a deeper level of analysis beyond human capacity





# Technology Tools & Applications

- LMS - Pay attention to feedback/comments on assignments, how much progress is being made, any changes in engagement
- SIS - Has there been a change in infractions/behavior, are grades starting to fall behind, how is attendance
- EAS (Early Alert System) - Proactively identifies students who may need additional support
- SEL - Various SEL tools can measure students' emotional well-being and identify potential issues





# Ethical Considerations

- Data Privacy: Be mindful of FERPA, COPPA, SOPPA, CIPA; Have training protocols in place for staff
- Fairness: Ensure that any technology is used responsibly and transparently, avoiding stigmatization or discrimination





# Google



**What do you do when someone bullies you at school but you're scared to tell anyone?**



Google Search

I'm Feeling Lucky



# Google



I hate my life



Google Search

I'm Feeling Lucky



# Google



how long does a person go to jail for child abuse?



Google Search

I'm Feeling Lucky



# Google



how to hang yourself



Google Search

I'm Feeling Lucky



# Google



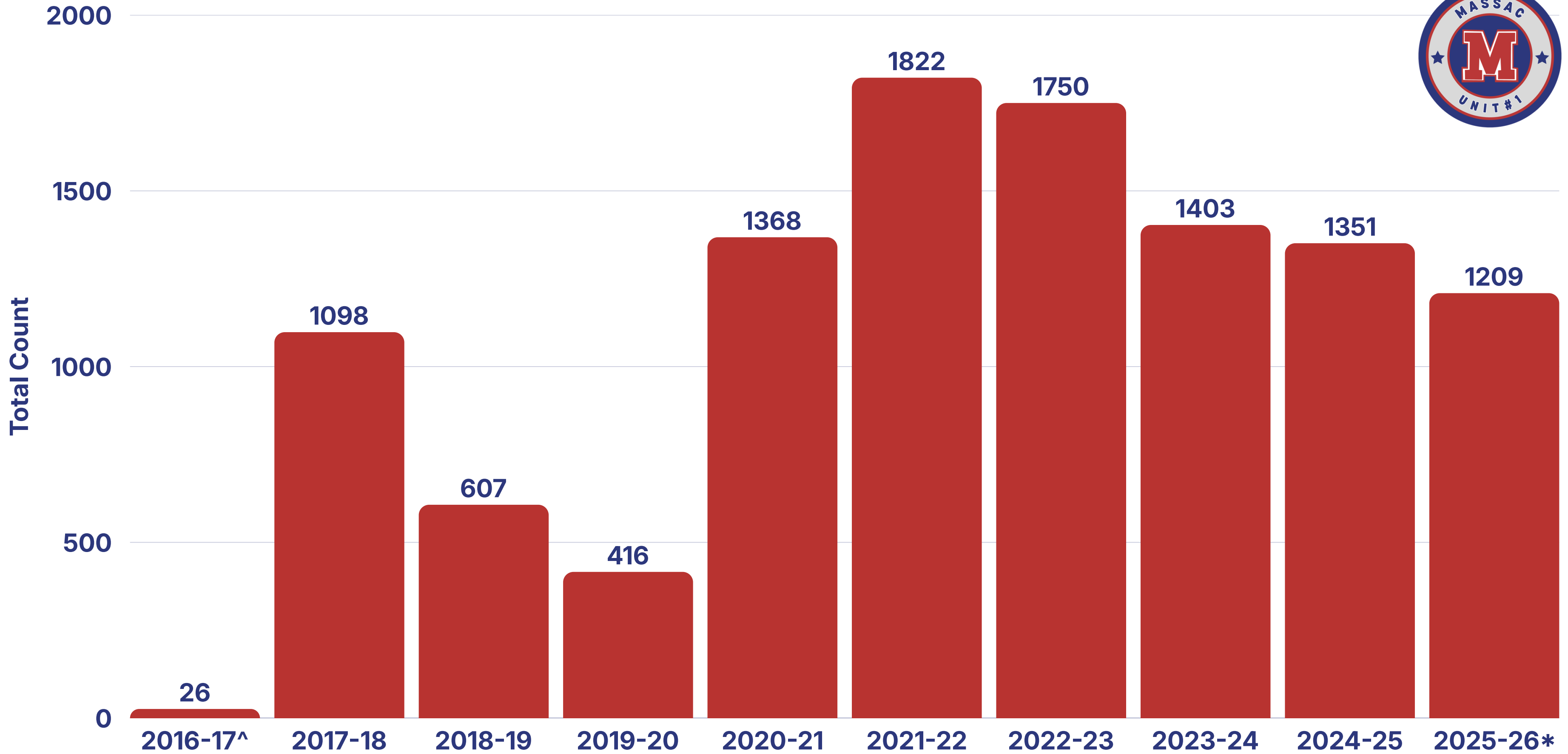
how to kill yourself in the least painful way



Google Search

I'm Feeling Lucky

# Potential Self Harm/Grief/Violence Related Online Inquiries



^count started Feb 2017

\*as of April 2026



# A Deeper Dive

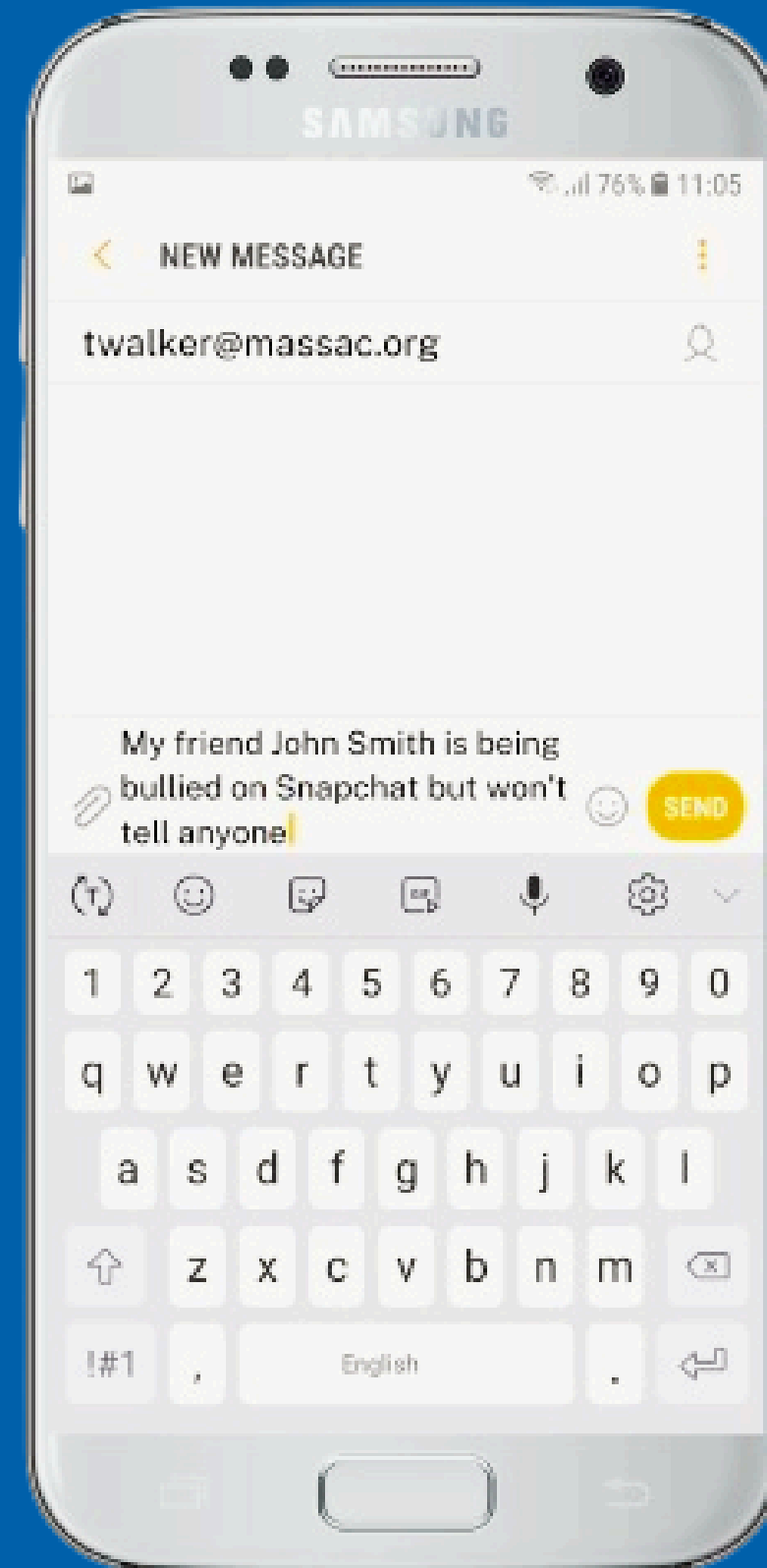
- Although "Grief" still leads in total volume, these flags decreased by 21% year-over-year. Conversely, "Violence" flags saw a 21% increase, signaling a potential to shift intervention resources
- Distress isn't limited to texts or social media. Students are actively using collaborative platforms like Google Docs to express grief and violent ideation—in fact, our data shows "Bullying" instances occur in Docs at more than double the rate of Email

# See Something? Say Something.

John Smith doesn't have any friends and sits alone everyday.

John Smith was kicked out of his house last night and is staying with friends.

My friend John Smith told me he is thinking about hurting himself.



My friend John Smith is very depressed.

John Smith is experimenting with drugs and alcohol.

John Smith is going to punch someone at lunch.

All information will remain anonymous.

# Using this data to help identify At-Risk Youth

- Look for concerning keywords, sudden changes in activity, or engagement with known harmful online communities
- Always analyze flagged cases to avoid misinterpretations and false positives
- Offer resources and interventions based on individual needs, like counseling or other outreach
- Combine web activity with attendance, grades, disciplinary records, surveys, and more for a better understanding of the situation

# AI

- Generative AI is already modeling student's online behavior, identifying trends in at-risk youth
- Systems are analyzing student communication to flag early indicators of emotional distress - about 2% of AI prompts showed signs of self-harm, violence, or bullying.
- Adaptive algorithms are identifying hidden learning gaps, predicting academic struggles before grades begin to slip
- Dynamic content generators are linking curriculum to individual student interests, re-igniting motivation before apathy turns into absenteeism

# Data 🤝 ROE

- Leverage your student information system to generate reports on chronically absent students (or those at risk of being chronically absent), allowing you to intervene early and support their academic success
- Equip our school community (truancy officers) with data to proactively address attendance concerns



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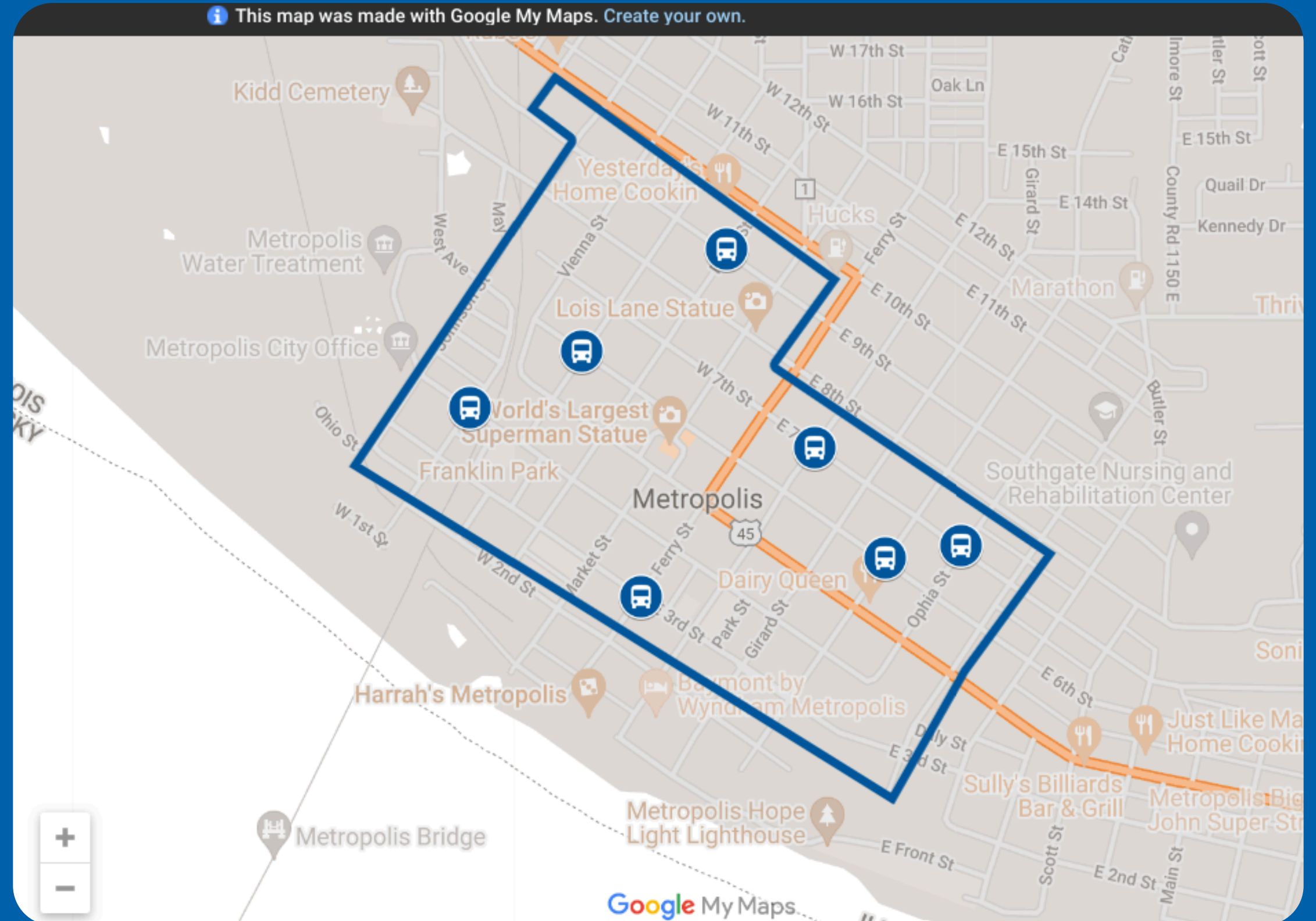


# Data 🤝 ROE

- Partner with ROE to analyze attendance data and practices in comparable districts (Look at any specific policies that may differ from your district)
- Use data to optimize transportation routes and ensure reliable transportation for homeless students to and from school, including potential partnerships with community organizations

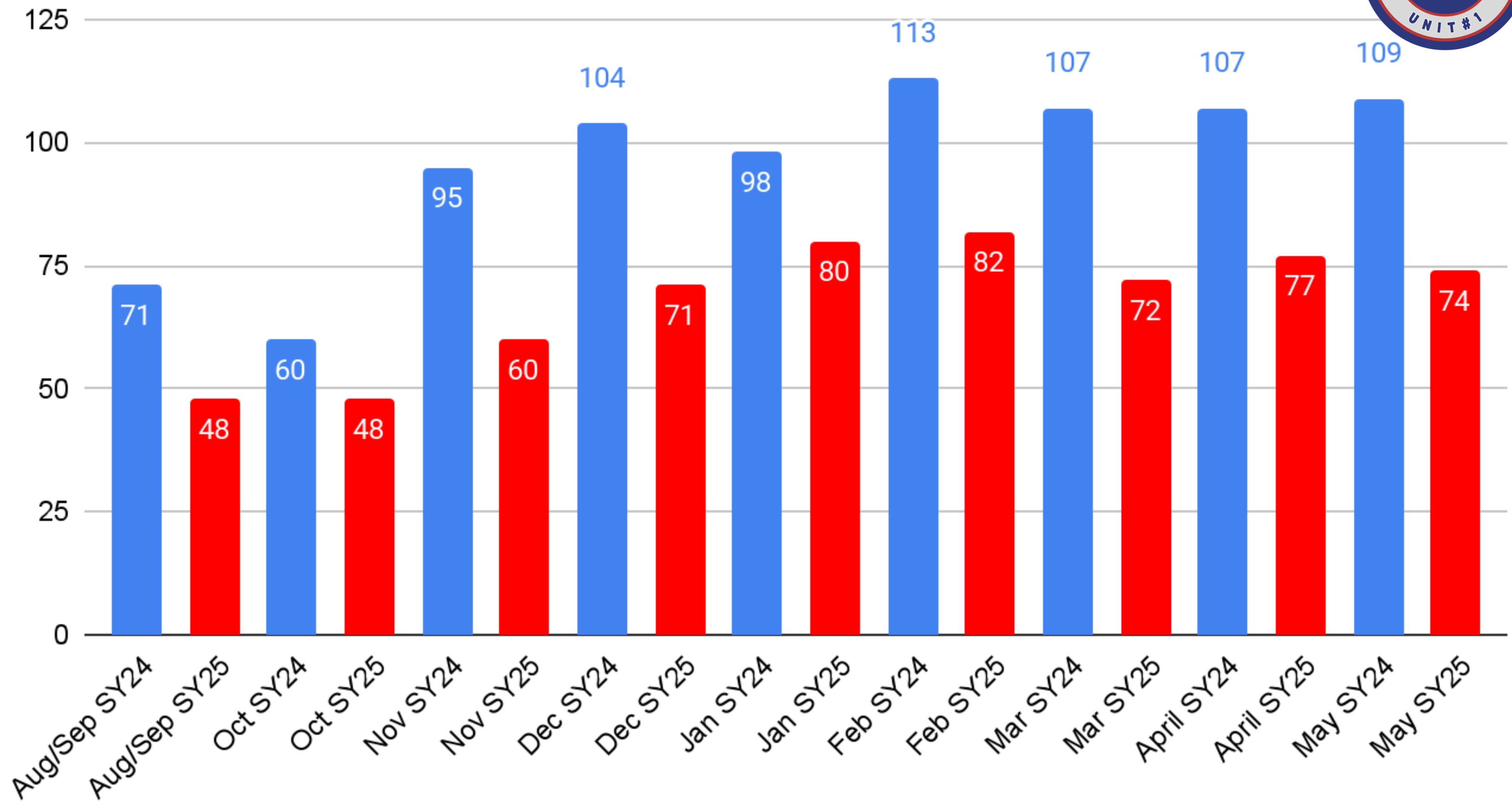
# MyMaps

- Imported student addresses into Google MyMaps (free)
- Allowed us to pinpoint the best locations for new bus stops for Metropolis Elementary School
- Reduced chronic absenteeism
- ROE Truancy visit - No excuses, bus stop right around the corner

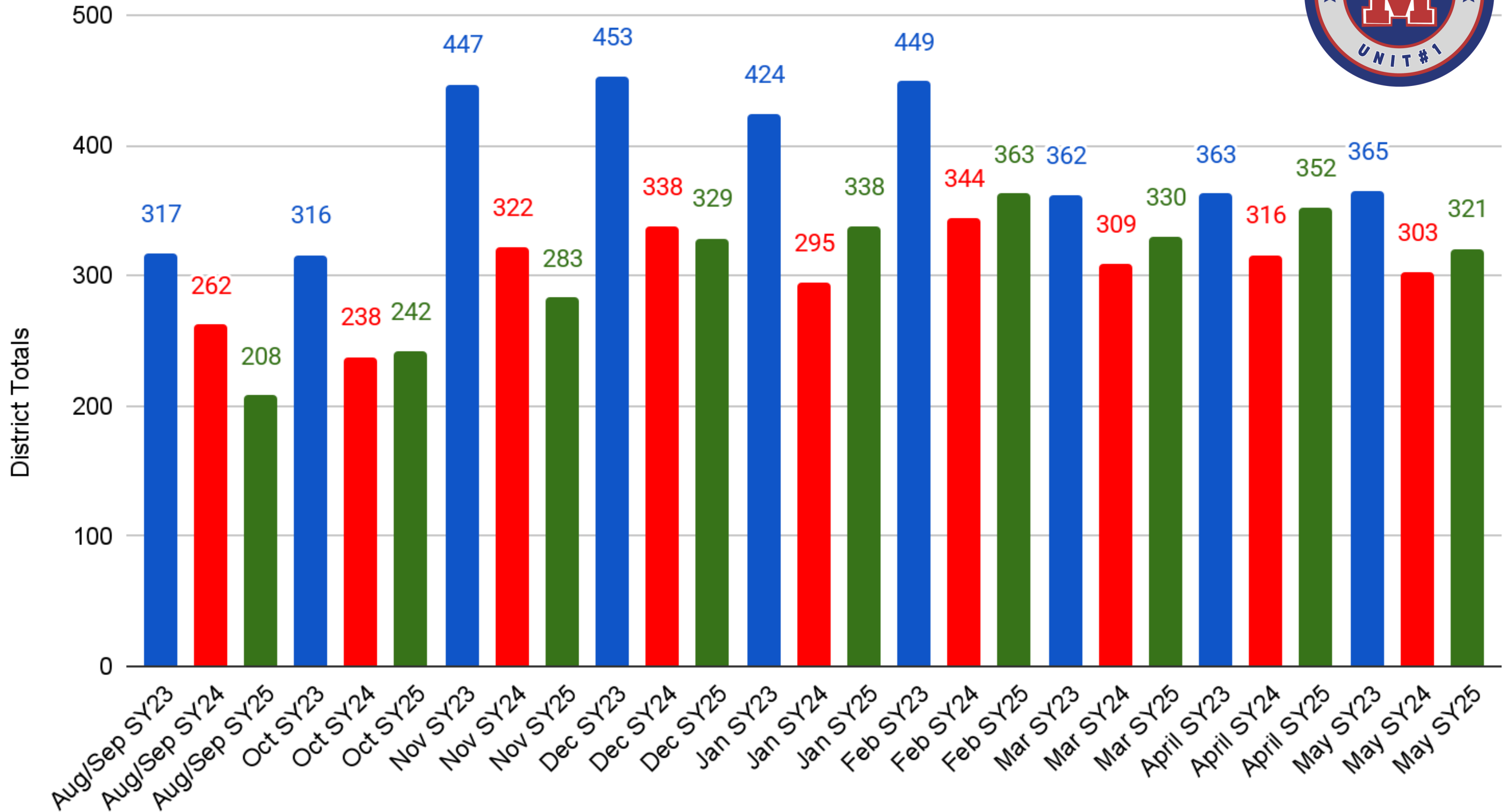




# MES SY25 Total Chronic Absentee By Month

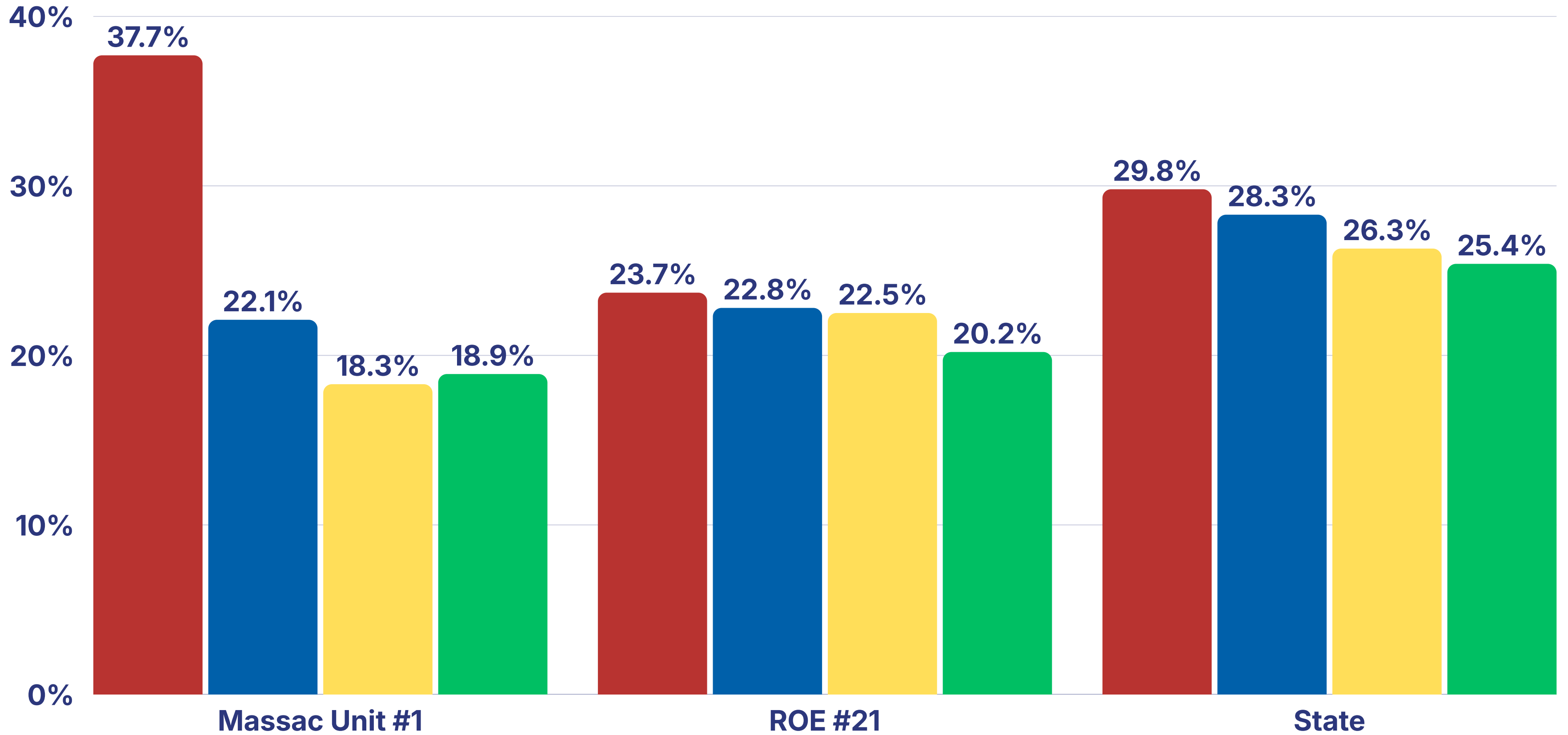


# 3-Year Chronic Absenteeism Monthly District Totals



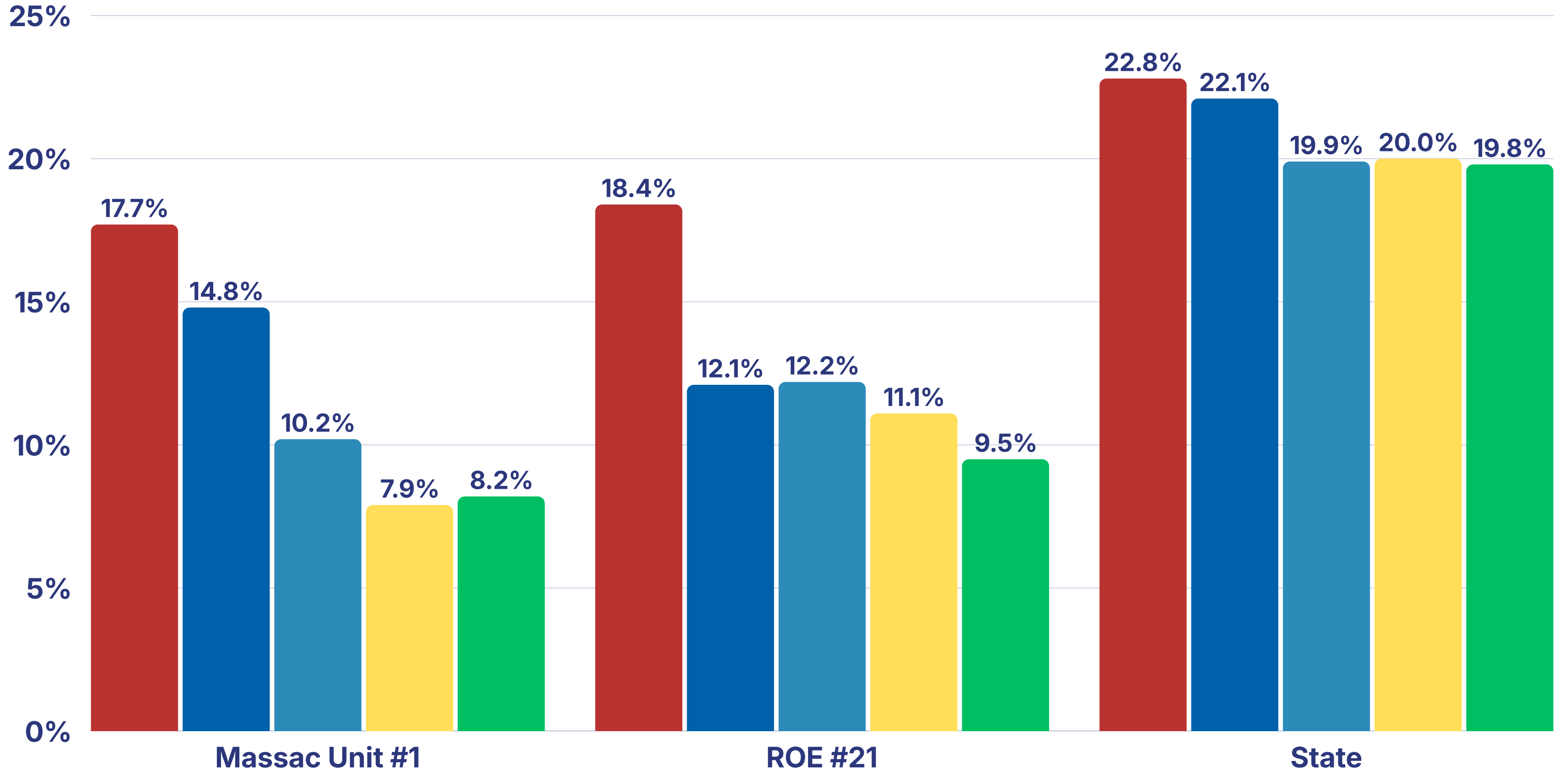
# Chronic Absenteeism Rates

● SY 2022 ● SY 2023 ● SY 2024 ● SY 2025



# Chronic Truancy Rates

● SY 2021 ● SY 2022 ● SY 2023 ● SY 2024 ● SY 2025



# ROE #21

## 2024-25 Truancy Students Referred by Grade

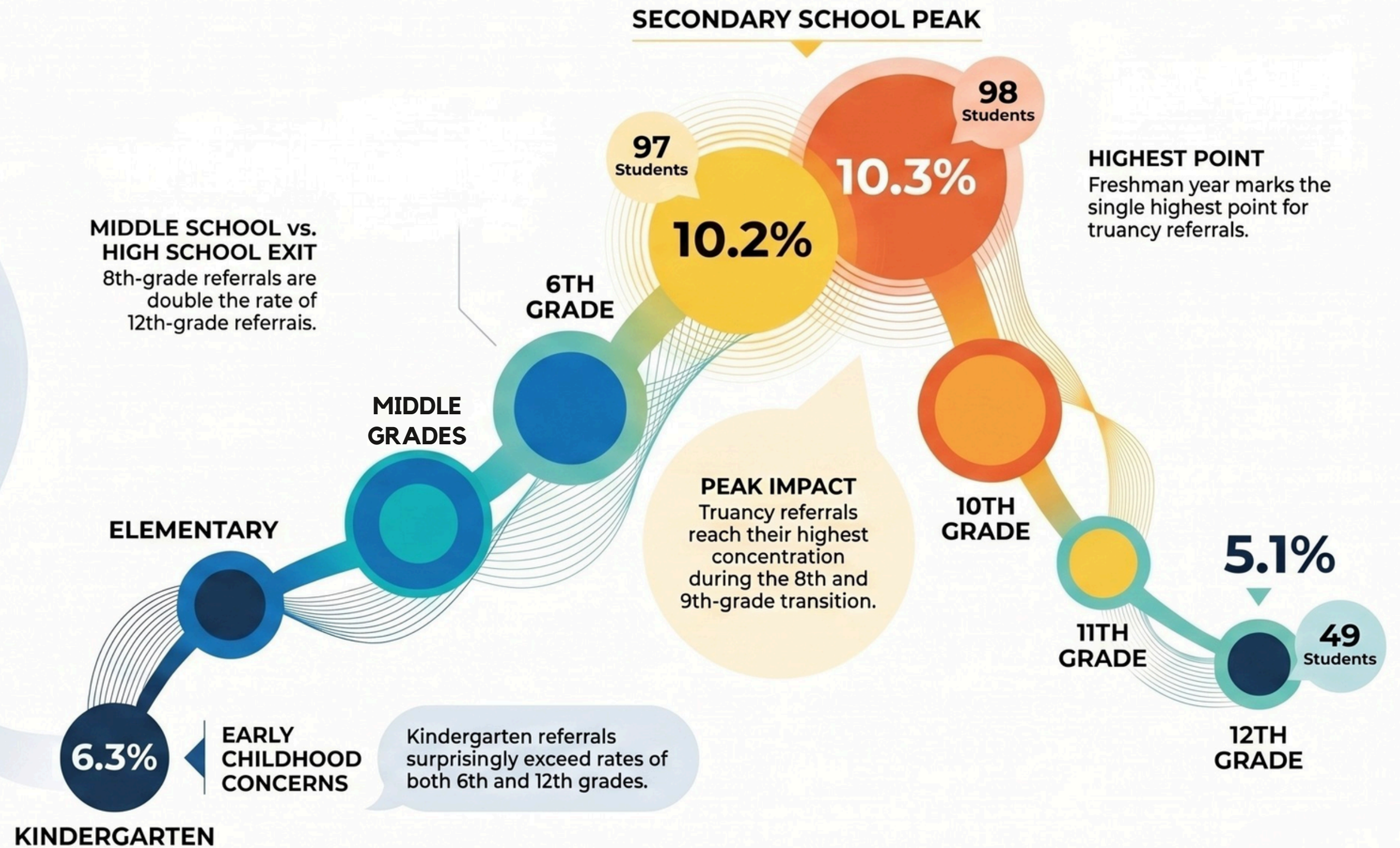
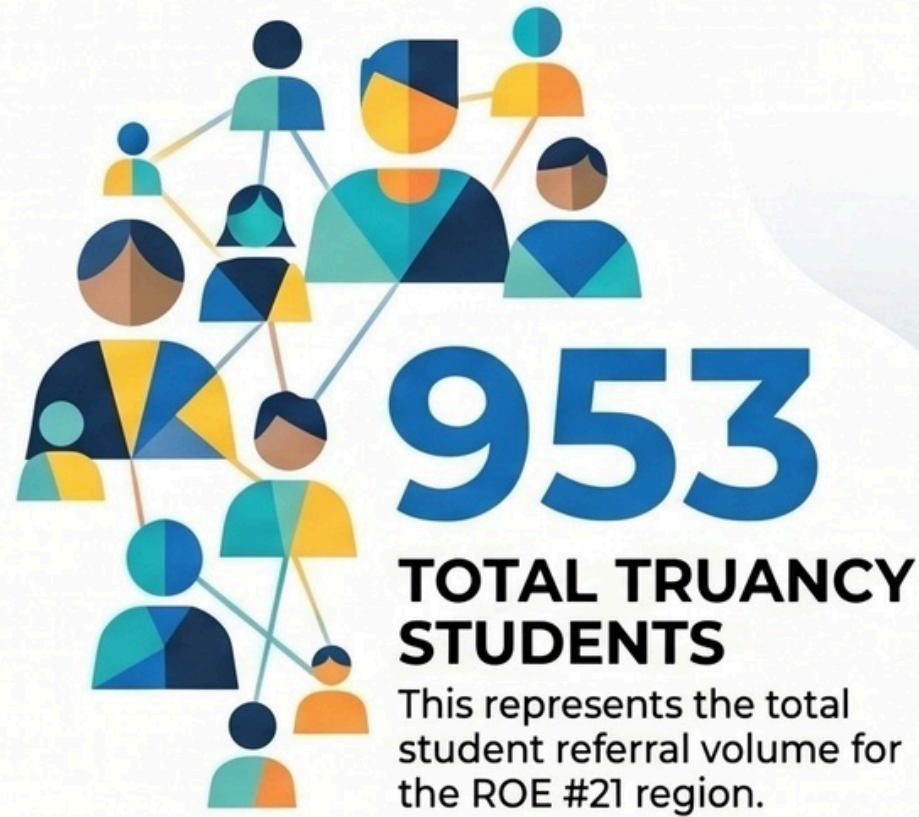
Total Truancy Students: 953

	Number Referred	% Referred
Kindergarten	60	6.3%
1 <sup>st</sup> Grade	56	5.9%
2 <sup>nd</sup> Grade	80	8.4%
3 <sup>rd</sup> Grade	90	9.4%
4 <sup>th</sup> Grade	58	6.1%
5 <sup>th</sup> Grade	68	7.1%
6 <sup>th</sup> Grade	53	5.6%
7 <sup>th</sup> Grade	77	8.1%
8 <sup>th</sup> Grade	97	10.2%
9 <sup>th</sup> Grade	98	10.3%
10 <sup>th</sup> Grade	78	8.2%
11 <sup>th</sup> Grade	89	9.3%
12 <sup>th</sup> Grade	49	5.1%



# ROE #21: 2024-25 Truancy Referral Trends by Grade

Analysis of 953 student truancy referrals across ROE #21, from Kindergarten to 12th Grade, revealing critical intervention points and grade-specific trends for the academic year.



## Massac Unit #1 2024-25 Truancy Students Referred by Grade

Total Truancy Students: 133

	Number Referred	% Referred
Kindergarten	8	6%
1 <sup>st</sup> Grade	7	5.3%
2 <sup>nd</sup> Grade	4	3%
3 <sup>rd</sup> Grade	3	2.3%
4 <sup>th</sup> Grade	4	3%
5 <sup>th</sup> Grade	9	6.8%
6 <sup>th</sup> Grade	5	3.8%
7 <sup>th</sup> Grade	26	19.5%
8 <sup>th</sup> Grade	21	15.8%
9 <sup>th</sup> Grade	7	5.3%
10 <sup>th</sup> Grade	9	6.8%
11 <sup>th</sup> Grade	14	10.5%
12 <sup>th</sup> Grade	16	12%



# Consequences of Truancy

- Students who demonstrate truant behavior are SEVEN TIMES more likely to be arrested than the general teenage population
- Truancy can compromise academic progress and result in grade level retention
- 80% of school dropouts were chronically truant during the year they dropped out of school
- 95% of juvenile offenders started out as truants
- 80% of prison inmates were at one time truants

*\*Data from the US Dept. of Education*

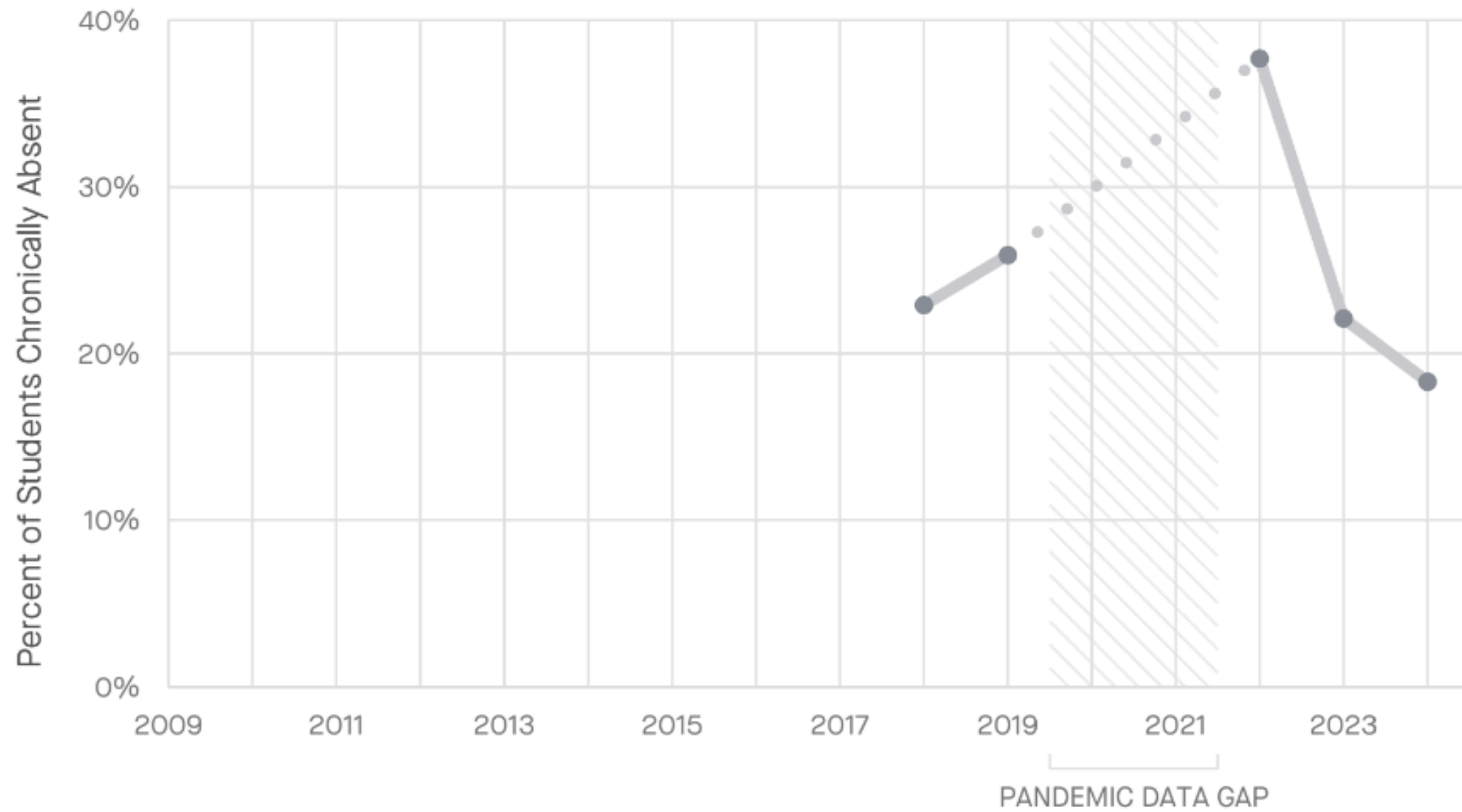
# The Positives of Attending School

- Studies show students with better attendance consistently earn higher grades in all subjects (*2019 National Center for Education Statistics study*)
- Students with 90%+ attendance are 4 times more likely to graduate on time compared to those with lower rates (*2017 Center on the Developing Child Harvard University study*)
- Studies link regular attendance to lower rates of depression and anxiety (*2019 review by Lawrence et al. in "Education and Health"*)

# Massac UD 1, IL



## Absenteeism, Grades 3-8, 2009-2024



### Absenteeism

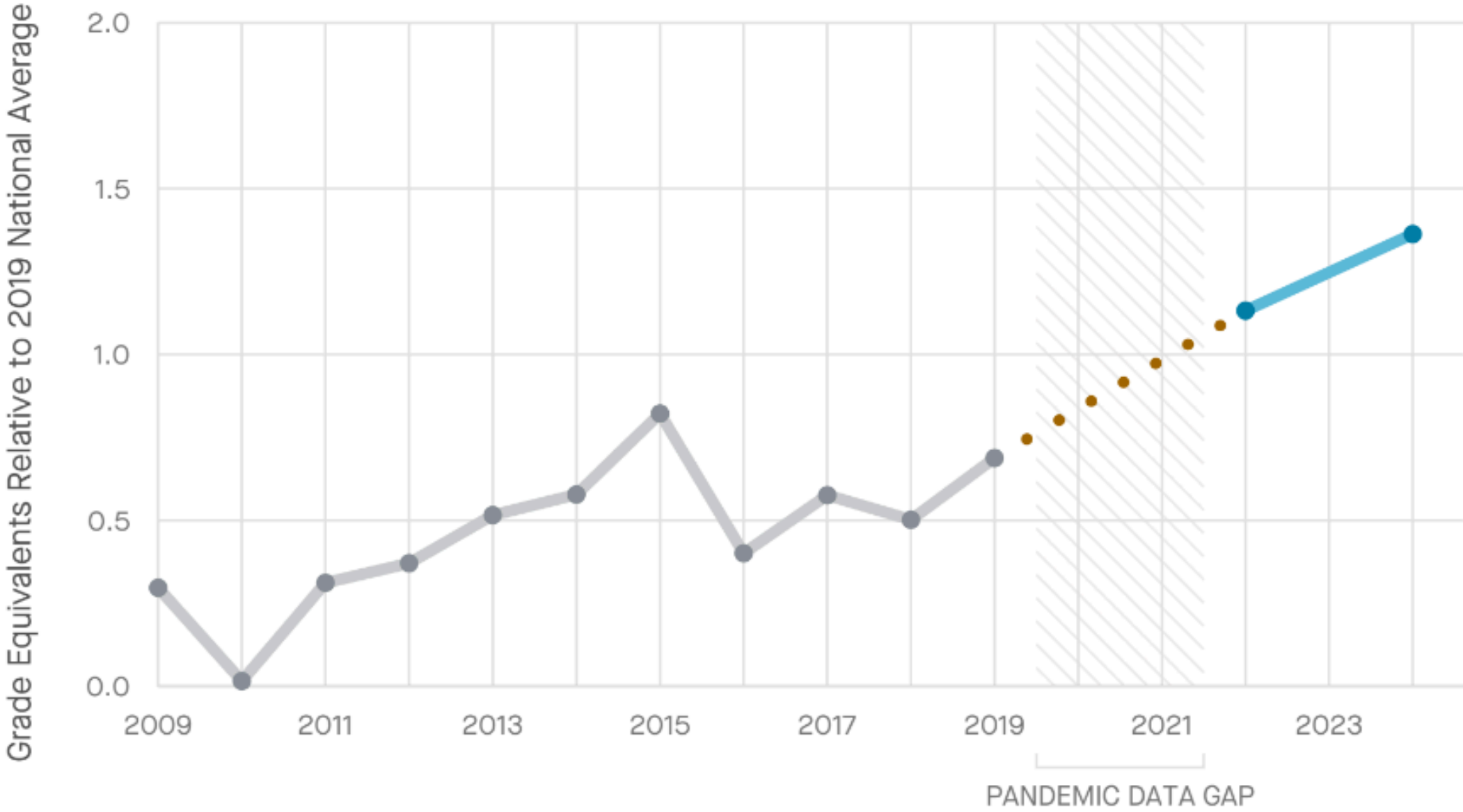
<b>2019-2023 Change</b>	-0.04
<b>Since 2009</b>	N/A

Absenteeism data courtesy of [Nat Malkus, American Enterprise Institute](#)

# Massac UD 1, IL



## Reading Performance, Grades 3-8, 2009-2024



**Average Reading Scores and Trends in Scores**  
in Grade Level Equivalents Relative to the 2019 National Average

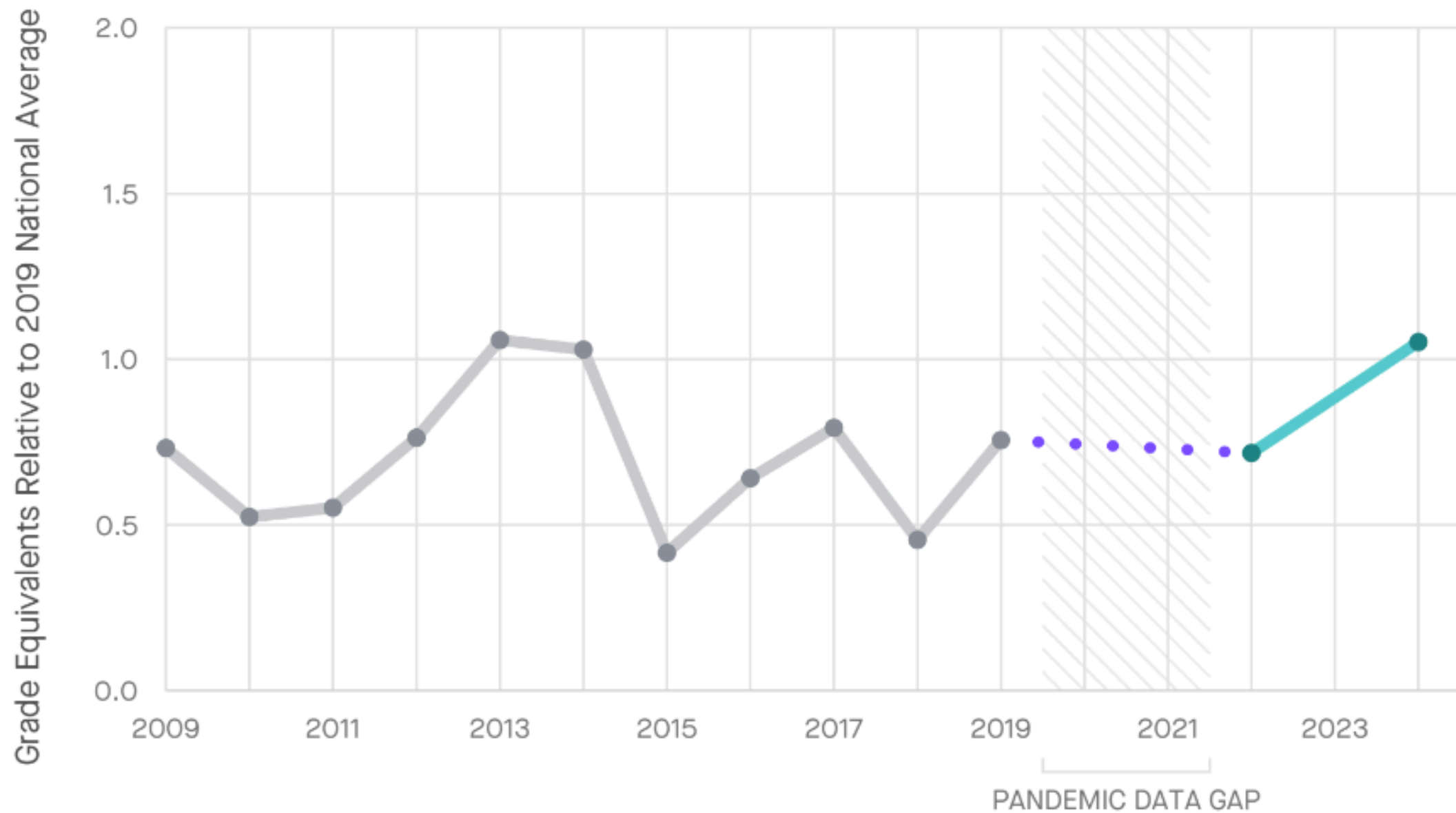
<b>2019 Average</b>	0.69
<b>2022 Average</b>	1.13
<b>2024 Average</b>	1.36
<b>2019-2022 Change</b>	+0.44
<b>2022-2024 Change</b>	+0.23
<b>Since 2019</b>	+0.68

Source: <https://educationrecoverycorecard.org/>

# Massac UD 1, IL



## Math Performance, Grades 3-8, 2009-2024



**Average Math Scores and Trends in Scores**  
in Grade Level Equivalents Relative to the 2019  
National Average

<b>2019 Average</b>	0.76
<b>2022 Average</b>	0.72
<b>2024 Average</b>	1.05
<b>2019-2022 Change</b>	-0.04
<b>2022-2024 Change</b>	+0.34
<b>Since 2019</b>	+0.30

# Success!

- Massac Unit 1 has been recognized by the Education Recovery Scorecard (Harvard/Stanford) as one of 106 school districts out of 8,719 analyzed as performing above pre-pandemic levels in both math and reading



# 2025 Illinois School Report Card Designations



School Name	Grade Band	2025 Annual Summative Designation
Massac County High School	HS	Commendable
Massac Junior High School	ES	Commendable
Jefferson Elementary School	ES	Exemplary
Franklin Elementary School	ES	Commendable
Metropolis Elementary School	ES	Commendable
Unity Elementary School	ES	Commendable
Brookport Elementary School	ES	Commendable



# Additional Initiatives



- ROE presents on truancy and the importance of attending school to incoming Kindergarten parents and students at the start of the school year. The presentations focus on the importance of attendance and student success throughout their academic careers.
- ROE Roundtables on truancy and McKinney-Vento provided at the school district offices
  - Enhance participants' understanding of ROE #21 truancy processes and protocols
  - Equip liaisons with effective case management strategies and best practices for documentation





# Community Partnerships

- Reinforce positive school attendance
- Gift cards from local businesses, Kiwanis
- Connections with local mental health, counseling services, food banks ([findhelpsi.org](http://findhelpsi.org) & [sifamilies.org](http://sifamilies.org))



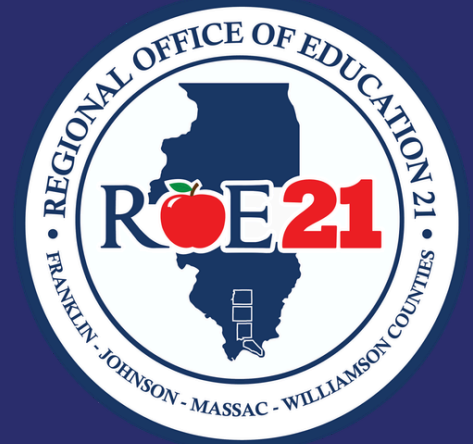
# Additional Initiatives

- MCHS eSports (started 2015) has led to providing a club for students who otherwise would not have been involved in any other school activities; several of these students have even obtained scholarships.



# ROE #21 & Massac Unit #1 Partnership Benefits:

- Increase promotion rates
- Increase student attendance
- Increase cooperative effort between stakeholders
- Promote improved utilization of existing resources
- Professional monitoring
- Increase academic performance
- Increase student well-being
- Increase high school graduation rates
- Positive parent involvement and communications
- School staff have better knowledge and a vested interest in their students



# What is your favorite AI Tool to use?



# How has AI helped us?

- Key Takeaways and Inferences

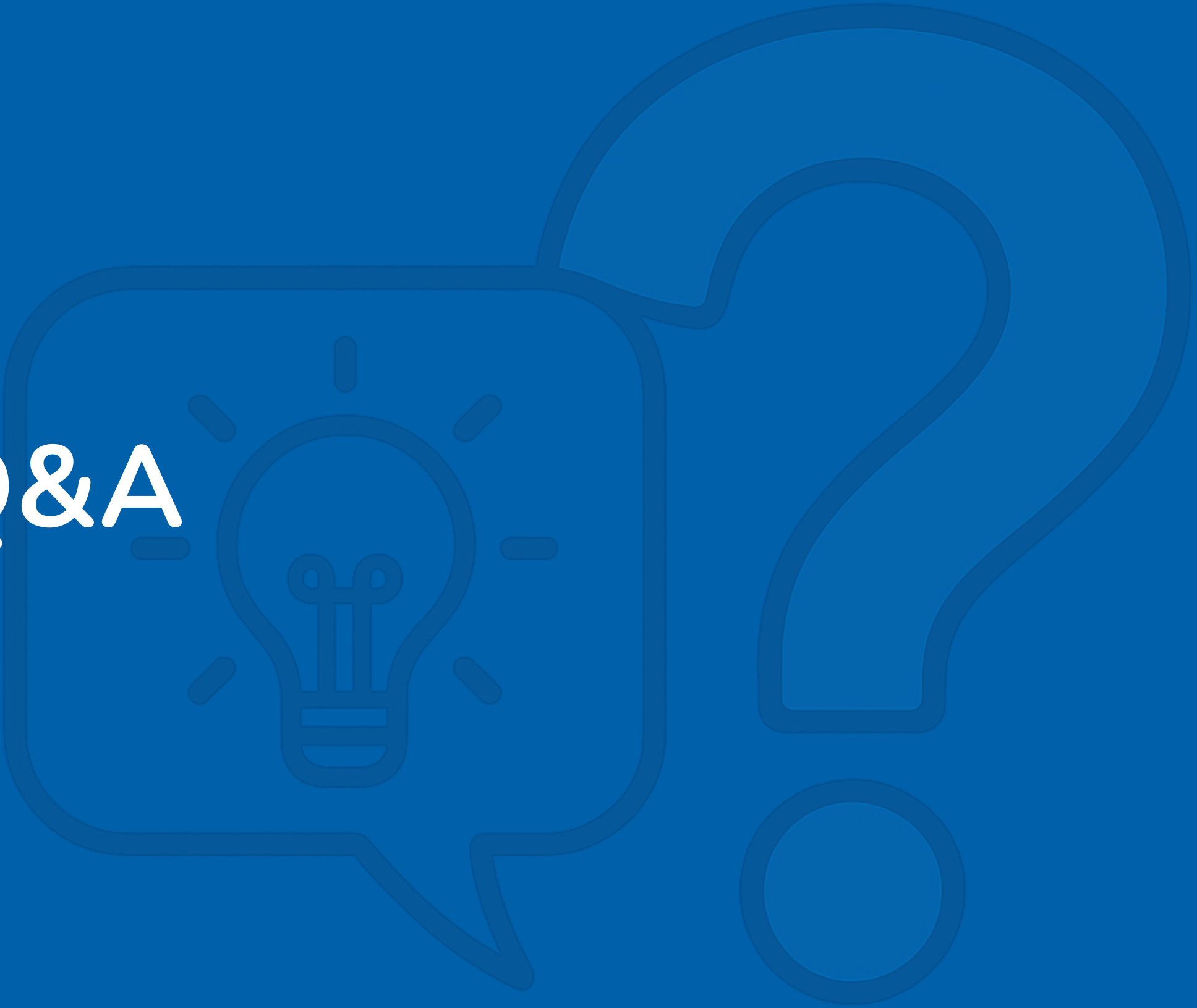
example

- Various Graphics

heatmap

infographic - if you haven't, check out [notebooklm.google.com](https://notebooklm.google.com)  
and Gemini Deep Research

Q&A





# Additional Resources



## ROE #21

- ROE #21 Website: <https://www.roe21.org/>
- ROE #21 PACT Website: <https://www.roe21.org/pact/>
- Attendance Works: <https://www.attendanceworks.org/>

## Massac Unit School District #1

- District Website: <https://unit1.massac.org>
- Student Help Information: <https://unit1.massac.org/page/students>

# Contact Information



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