



# North Monterey County Unified School District



	Enrollment ('22-'23)	Chronic Absence Rate ('21-'22)	Chronic Absence Rate ('22-'23)
English learners	2,208	41.7%	24.8%
Foster	23	73.3%	52.2%
Homeless Youth	1,227	41.8%	26.2%
Students with disabilities	639	51.3%	39.9%
Socio-economically disadvantaged	3,950	29.2%	22%
<b>District Total</b>	<b>4,638</b>	<b>42.3%</b>	<b>28.5%</b>

North Monterey County Unified School District serves 4,483 K-12 students in eight schools in the communities of Aromas, Castroville, Elkhorn, Prunedale, Royal Oaks, Moss Landing, & portions of Salinas, California. North Monterey County Unified joined the Research Practice Partnership with a 42.3% chronic absence rate at the end of 2021-22, which has improved to 28.5% in 2022-2023.

## Team Composition

District - School - Community

**Included:** Director of Special Projects, the Administrator of Adult Education & Parent Engagement, the Child Welfare Homeless & Foster Youth Coordinator, the Multimedia Communications Coordinator, & the Licensed Social Worker Coordinator.



## Problem of Practice

North Monterey County identified high rates of chronic absence among students with disabilities as their equity challenge. The district noticed the need for improving communication on the importance of attendance with families of students with disabilities to create a greater sense of belonging.



## Goal

Reduce the number of chronically absent students with Individual Education Plans in TK-3 at two elementary schools by the end of the 2022-23 school year.



## Strategies

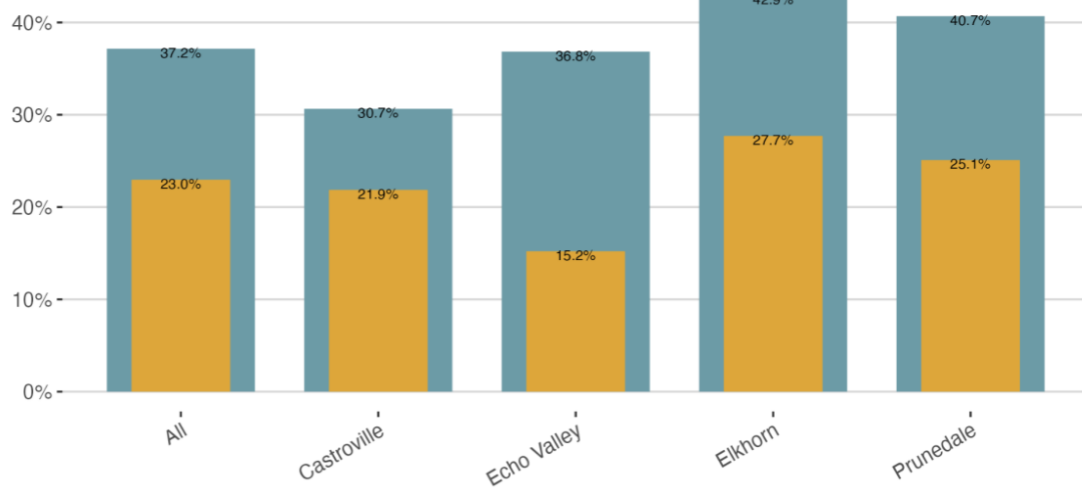
Team members hypothesized that if they welcomed students at the door, had empathy conversations with students, & conducted brief check-ins with students, they would improve students' sense of belonging. In addition, they agreed to conduct home visits with families to build a stronger sense of belonging & improve communication about the importance of attendance.



## Results

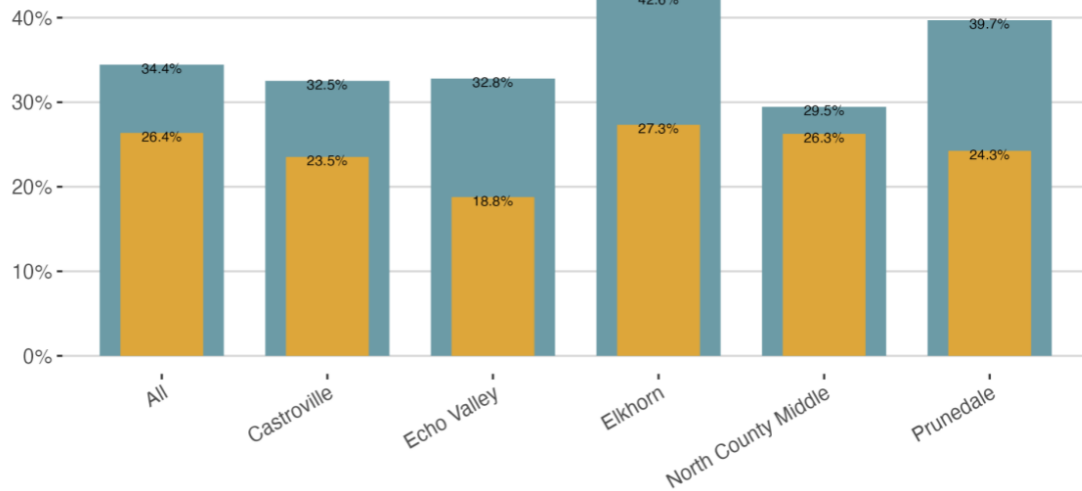
Between January 2023 and January 2024, North Monterey County Unified decreased its overall chronic absence rate by 8 percentage points. Their districtwide TK-3 rate decreased by more than 14 percentage points. The TK-3 rates at one focal school declined by 21.6 percentage points and 15.7 percentage points in the second school.

**NMCUSD TK-3 Students Percent Chronically Absent**  
 Yellow is through January 2024  
 Blue is through January 2023



Chronic absenteeism rates for TK-3 students in January 2023 and January 2024.

**NMCUSD All Students Percent Chronically Absent**  
 Yellow is through January 2024  
 Blue is through January 2023



Chronic absenteeism rates for all students in January 2023 and January 2024.

The Monterey County Office of Education, in collaboration with CCEE, is facilitating a network of four district teams to enhance student attendance by examining data, conducting root cause analyses, and challenging mental models. Explore the partnership's work and the district teams' efforts here.

