



Soledad Unified School District



	Enrollment ('22-'23)	Chronic Absence Rate ('21-'22)	Chronic Absence Rate ('22-'23)
English learners	1,730	33.8%	24.2%
Foster	14	43.8%	21.4%
Homeless Youth	287	36.2%	30.7%
Students with disabilities	784	43.8%	32.9%
Socio-economically disadvantaged	4,280	33.2%	26.1%
District Total	4,896	32.4%	25.6%

Soledad Unified School District serves 4,748 K-12 students in seven schools in Soledad, California. Soledad joined the Research Practice Partnership with a 32.4% chronic absence rate at the end of 2021-22, which has improved to 25.6% in 2022-2023.

Team Composition

District - School - Community

Included: Director of Student Services, the coordinator or Districtwide Truancy, School Counselors, Attendance Technicians, a school Principal and Vice Principal.



Problem of Practice

Soledad identified high rates of chronic absence among students with disabilities as their equity challenge. The district recognized the need for improving communication on the importance of attendance with families of students with disabilities to create a greater sense of belonging and improve students' self-esteem.



Goal

Reduce chronic absence rates for students with disabilities in four schools, two elementary schools (by 10 percentage points) as well as the middle & high school (both by nearly 5 percentage points) by the end of the 2022-23 school year.



Results

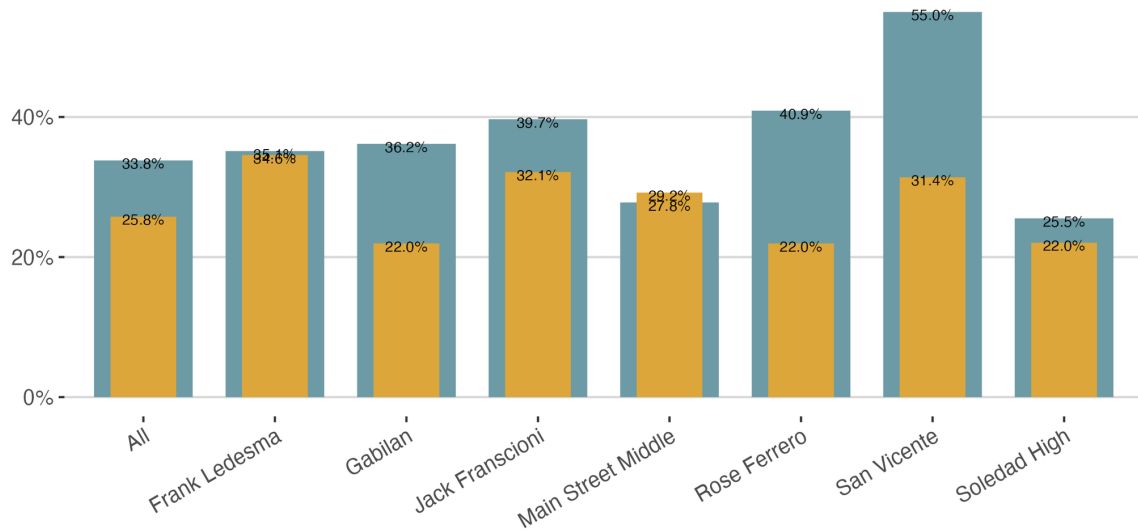
Between January 2023 and January 2024, Soledad reduced its chronic absence rate for students with disabilities at one focal elementary school by 23.6 percentage points and 14.2 at the other focal elementary school. At the high school, the chronic absence rate declined for students with disabilities by 3.5 percentage points.



Strategies

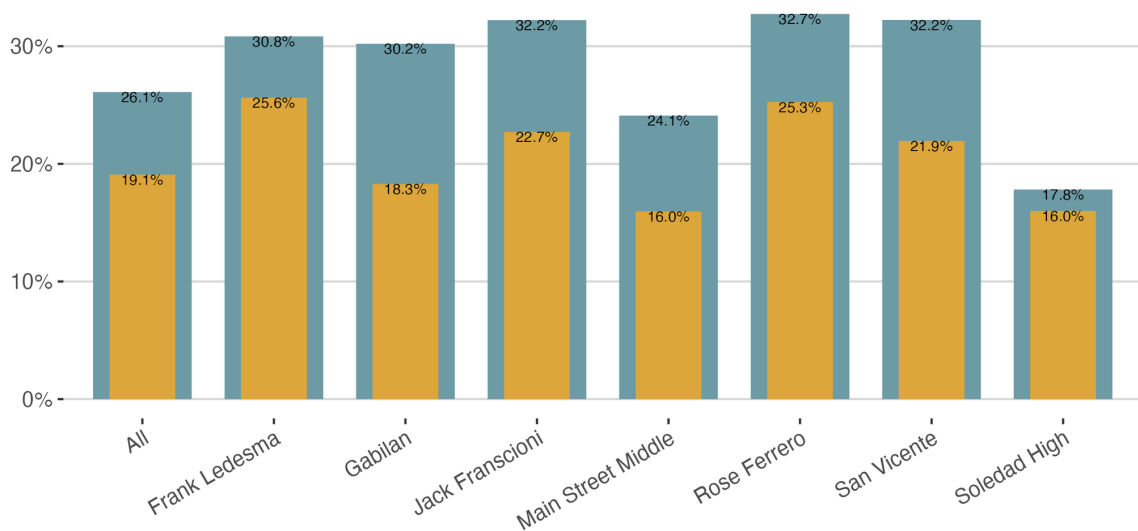
Team members hypothesized that if they increased their positive interactions with students and families, they would improve students' self-esteem. They offered a variety of specific strategies that each of the four schools could implement such as more groups and clubs, student workshops, parent information sessions, and incorporating attendance into IEP meetings.

Soledad SWD Students Percent Chronically Absent
 Yellow is through January 13, 2024
 Blue is through January 2023



Chronic absenteeism rates for students with disabilities in January 2023 and January 2024.

Soledad All Students Percent Chronically Absent
 Yellow is through January 13, 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.

