

June 1, 2026

Realigning our Focus on Attendance



Doug Strader, Ed.D., Elizabeth Faison, Ph.D., Tisa Holley, Ed.D., and Mr. Anthony Whittington

Department of Monitoring and Accountability and Student Services

Chronic Absenteeism Defined

- The chronic absenteeism measure identifies the number of students who have been enrolled for 10 days or more, and who were absent **10%** or more of the school days, while enrolled at that school. *For example, a student who is registered to attend a school for 30 days and who is absent 3 of those 30 days is considered chronically absent.*
- The chronic absenteeism measure will account for 15% of the total accountability score for all schools on their MD State Report Card.

PGCPS Performance Dashboard



Transparency in Data: Data Dashboards



Prince George's County Public Schools

What would you like information about?

Explore district, school, and student performance data to stay informed and make better decisions.

Click
Image
to enter
website



School District Performance

See district-wide academic results and progress.



Individual School Performance

Find detailed insights for a specific school.



Individual Student Performance

Track your child's progress (ParentVUE login required).

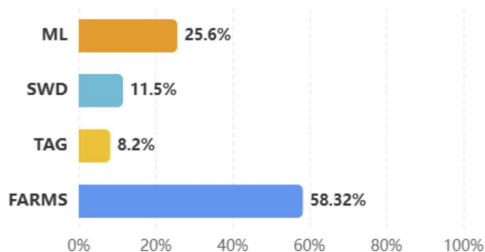
PGCPS Performance Dashboards:



Key Indicators and Metrics include: Enrollment, Service Groups, Demographics, Graduation Rate, On track for Graduation, College and Career Readiness, Suspension, Academic Proficiency, Academic Growth, On-time Arrivals, Culture & Climate, Chronic Absenteeism, and Vacancies

Service Groups ⓘ

School service groups metrics



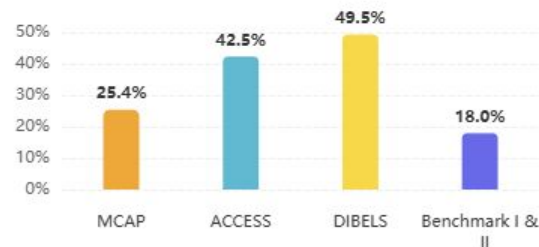
Priority Vacancies ⓘ

Open positions in high priority areas

571

Academic Proficiency ⓘ

MCAP, ACCESS, DIBELS, BENCHMARK I & II



MCAP (Proficiency) **25.4%** ↗

ACCESS (Met Growth Target) **42.5%** ↗

DIBELS (At or Above the Benchmark) **49.5%** ↗

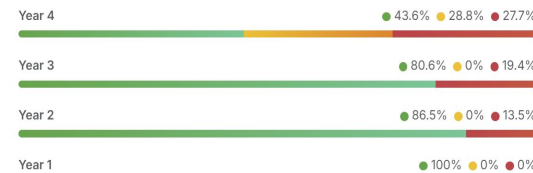
Benchmark I & II (Meeting Standards) **18.0%** ↗

On Track for Graduation ⓘ

Students meeting graduation requirements



72.3% ↗

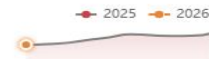


Chronic Absenteeism ⓘ

Consistent attendance challenges

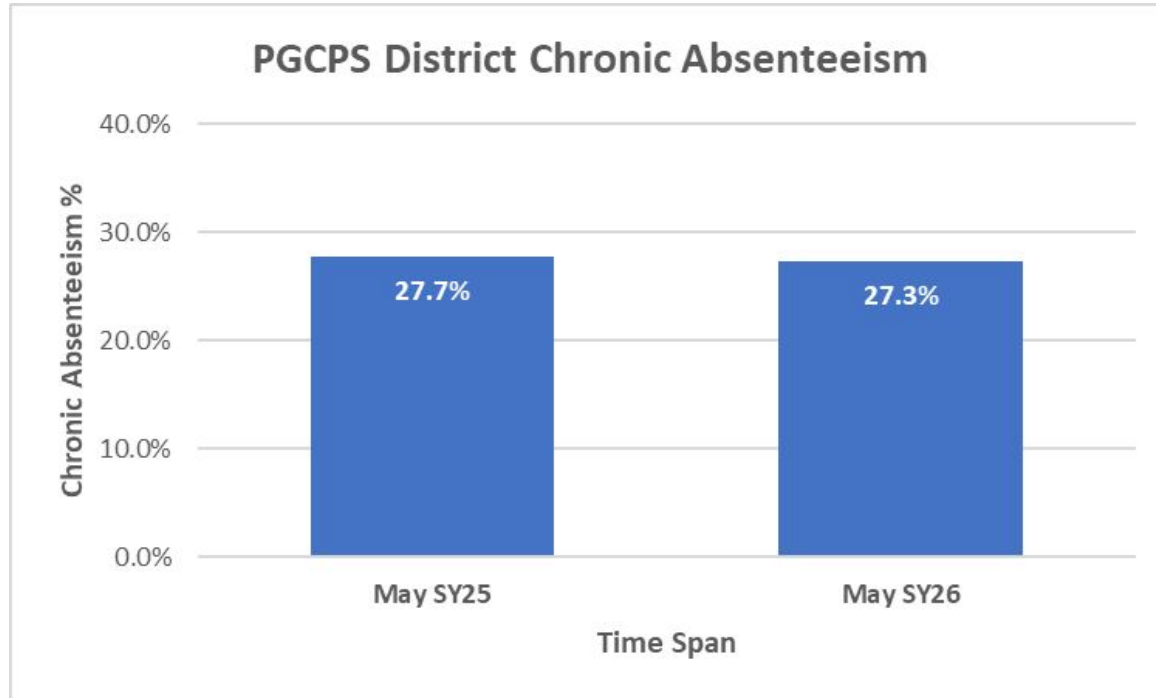


20.9% ↗

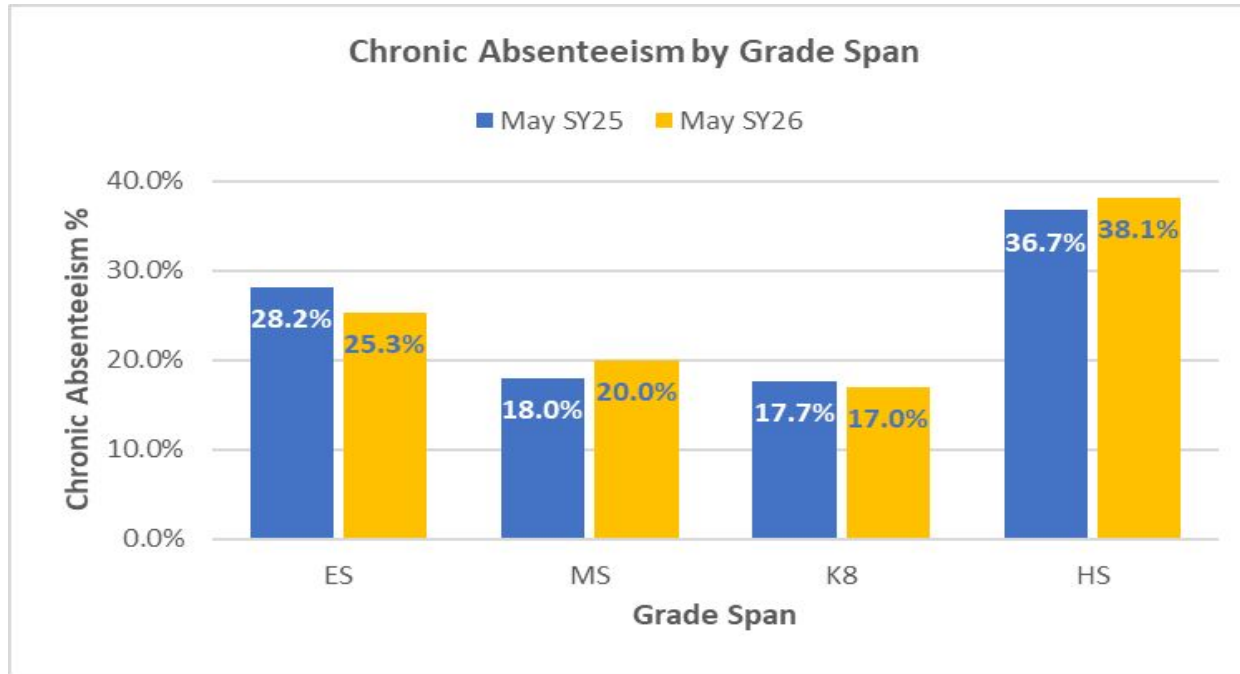


Difference from Last Year (Year-to-Date) **0.4%**

Chronic Absenteeism: Two-Year Comparison (District Level)



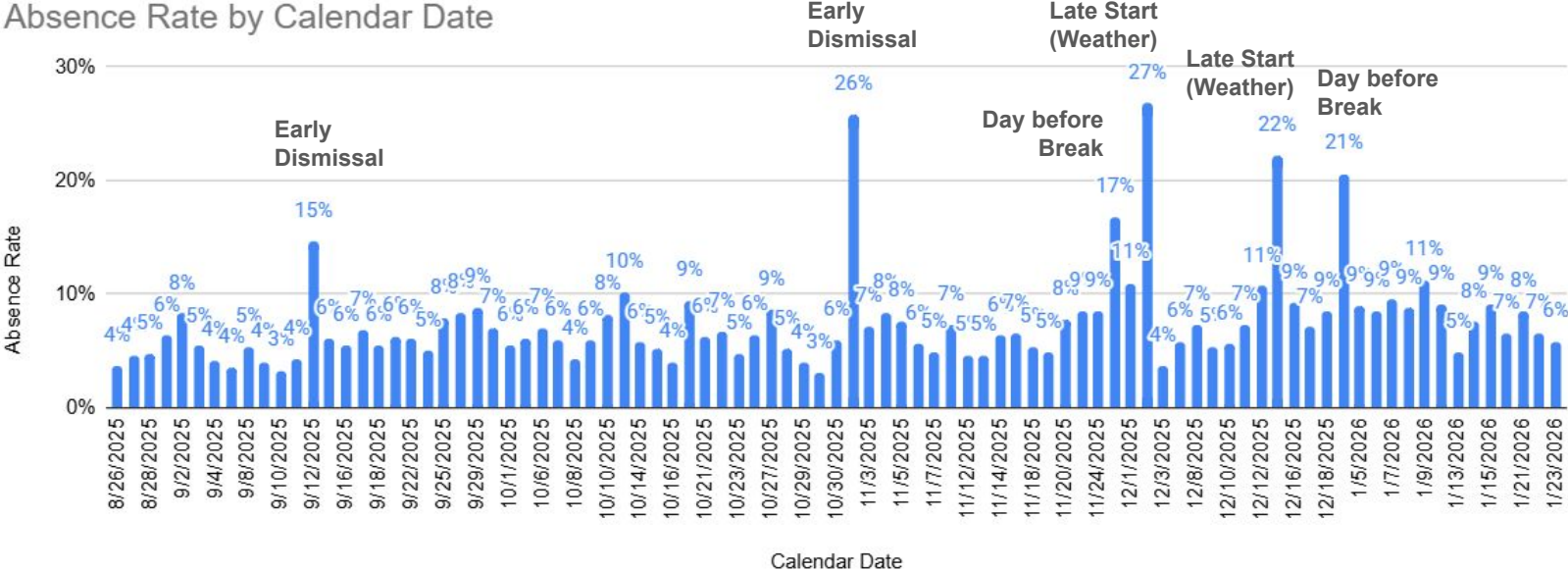
Chronic Absenteeism: Two-Year Comparison (Grade Band)



Chronic Absenteeism – Investigating Impacts



Absence Rate by Calendar Date



Root Causes Barriers: Key Findings Support Staff Survey

1. Family Responsibilities and Economic Pressures (Most Frequently Reported)

The most common barrier identified was students needing to work or care for family members.

2. Lack of Engagement and Perceived Relevance of School

Many students report feeling disengaged from school due to:

- Boredom with classes
- Lack of connection to instruction
- Not seeing the relevance of school to future goals

3. Mental Health and Emotional Well-Being

Mental health concerns, including anxiety, depression and stress, were frequently cited as barriers.



Root Causes Successes: Winning School Strategies



Top 5 Schools with Largest Y2Y CA Decrease			
School Name	April SY25	April SY26	Difference
BLADENSBURG ELEMENTARY	43.4%	26.47%	-16.96%
IMAGINE LINCOLN PCS	26.8%	10.43%	-16.38%
JAMES RYDER RANDALL ELEMENTARY	31.7%	17.15%	-14.57%
PORT TOWNS ELEMENTARY	41.7%	27.30%	-14.40%
GLADYS NOON SPELLMAN ELEMENTARY	31.6%	17.86%	-13.76%

Note: Schools referenced decreased chronic absenteeism in April by greater than 10%.

Strategic Truancy Reduction Plan Priorities



Systemic Communication

Establish a unified attendance goal as the top priority for all district schools.



Data Integrity

Ensure accurate daily attendance entry across every classroom and campus.



Proactive Strategy

Intervene early for chronic absenteeism and reconnect truant students.



Community Partnerships

Strengthen ties with county, community, and faith-based organizations.



Progress Monitoring

Continuously track student data to measure the success of interventions.



Comprehensive Truancy Reduction Plan & Progress

1. Data & Monitoring

- Attendance Taskforce Analysis
- Daily Entry Analytics Reports
- Automated Parent Notifications

2. Messaging

- Interim Superintendent PSAs
- Districtwide Messaging Redesign
- Attendance Mascot Naming

3. Interventions

- Public-facing Database Trends
- State's Attorney Truancy Grant
- Parent Attendance Forums

4. Community Partners

- Business Incentive Letters
- School-based Resource Fairs
- Attendance Team Facilitation

5. County Partnerships

- Truancy Reduction Collaborative
- Extended Strategic Partnerships
- Quarterly Data & Trend Reviews



Maintaining and Advancing Supports for Attendance



Student Focus Groups

Surrattsville data being synthesized;
other schools underway



Case Management Structure

Systemic approach to student
tracking (Attendance Coordinator)



Student Services

Support for mental health, behavior,
immunizations, home and hospital
teaching, SEL, school-based clinics



Multi-tiered System of Support

Ensuring our competency, implementation
and tiered approaches for students



Attendance 360 Partnership

Law enforcement collaboration
(District I and Area 3 Office)



Advancing Partnerships

Johns Hopkins, Attendance
Ambassadors

Become an Attendance Ambassador



Our Reflections & Call to Action

Through our shared accountability model, we provide clear expectations and strong partnerships across District, County, and Community levels.

"Our work continues to evolve."

Our commitment remains ensuring regular attendance is prioritized by EVERYONE touching our students' lives.

Join us for the Attendance Ambassador Kick-Off Press Conference on April 27 at 10 a.m. (Andrew Jackson Academy)



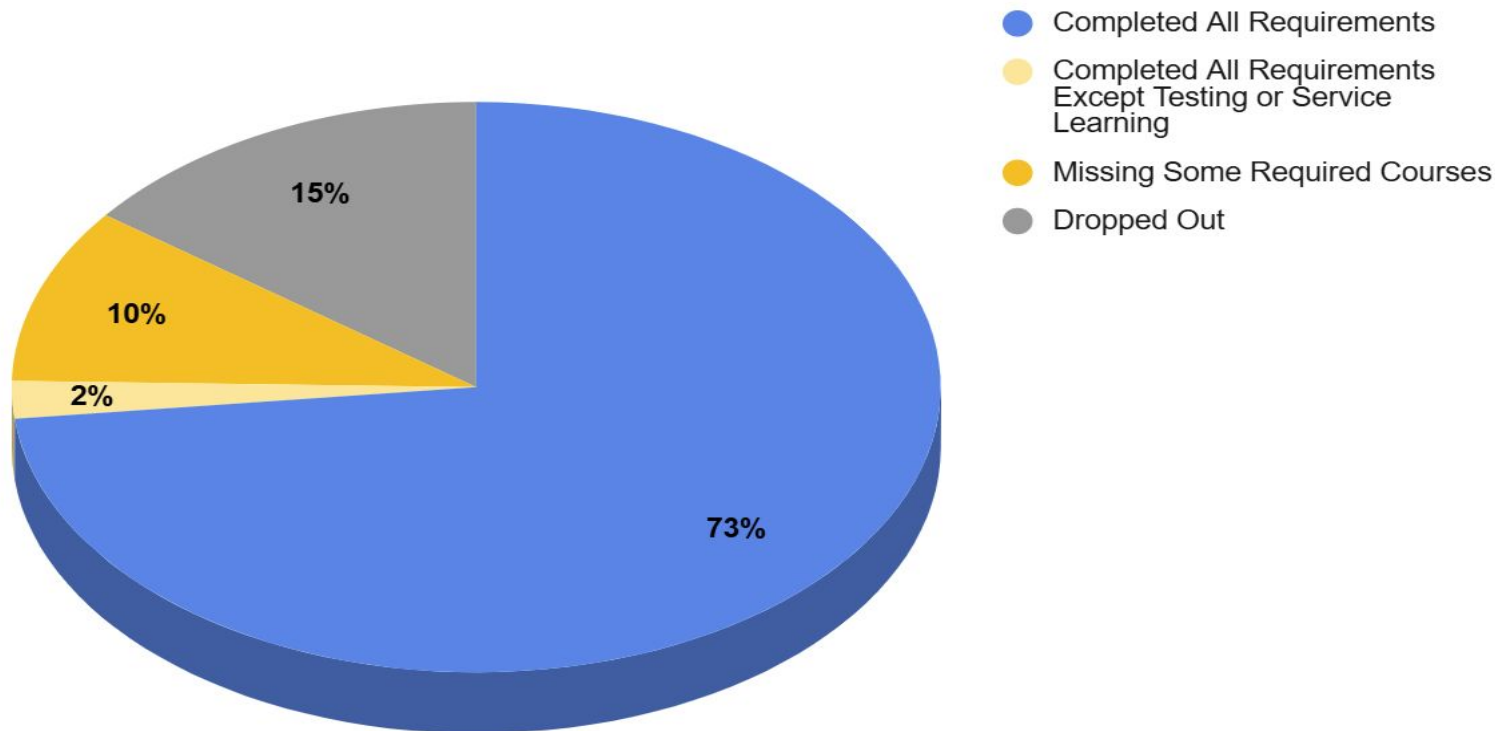
2026 Four-Year Adjusted Graduation Rate (predictions)



PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS • www.pgcps.org



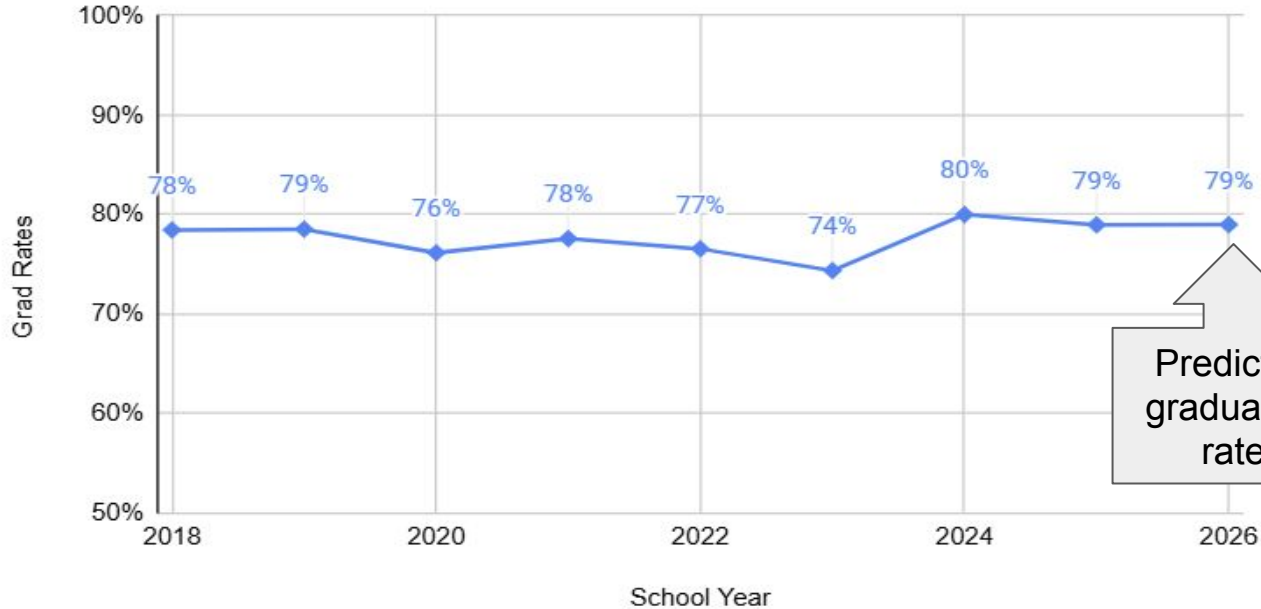
What is Our Prediction for this Year's Graduation Rate?



Graduation Rate Trends



Graduation Rate by School Year



A graduation rate of 79% would be a continuation of the recent trend for higher than usual graduation rates.

Student Group Level Changes



Graduation Rate Trends by Student Group

STUDENT GROUP	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026
All Students	78%	77%	74%	80%	79%	79% *
Black or African American	83%	85%	84%	85%	87%	89% *
Hispanic/Latino of any Race	66%	62%	60%	71%	69%	67% *
Students with Disabilities	64%	68%	66%	66%	68%	77% *
Multilingual Learners	58%	55%	52%	67%	60%	55% *

This chart shows how our predictions for SY 2026 compare to the actual graduation rates for the past five years.

The prediction assumes that half of the diploma seeking non-graduates who are still enrolled will graduate after summer school.



PGCPS

PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS • www.pgcps.org

Appendices



PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS • www.pgcps.org



Truancy Reduction Plan and Progress (SY 2025-2026)



PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS • www.pgcps.org



PGCPS Truancy Reduction Plan - 5 Priorities

PGCPS Truancy Reduction Plan - SY 26

Five Overarching Priorities
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To communicate a systemic attendance goal that becomes the priority for all schools 2. To ensure accurate daily attendance entry 3. To implement a systemic strategy that PGCPS utilizes to be proactive regarding student attendance, intervene for students headed towards chronic absenteeism, and reconnect students who are habitually truant 4. To engage and strengthen partnerships with county, community and faith-based organizations 5. To monitor our data and student progress

Priority 1 To communicate a systemic attendance goal as the priority for all schools
<p>During SY 2024, we reduced our chronic attendance goal by 2.23%. During SY 2025, we reduced our chronic attendance goal by 2.51%.</p> <p>Our goal for SY 2026 will continue to be a reduction in chronic absenteeism by 3% across the district by June 30, 2026.</p>

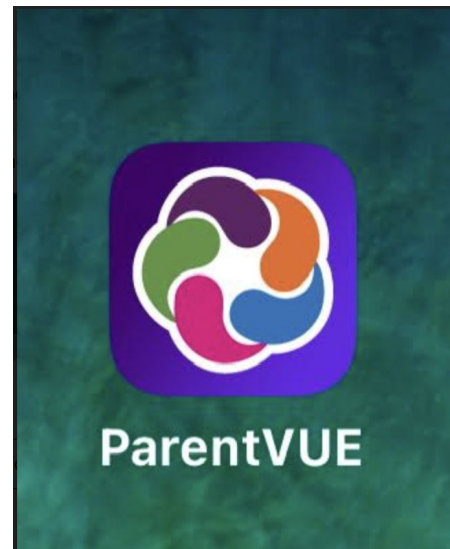
School Year 2024-2025			
Timeframe	Action	Lead	Status
SY 25	Developed a District-wide attendance tagline to be used in all schools - "Every Student, Everyday - College & Career Bound"	Chief of Schools	Completed
SY 25	Updated the PGCPS website concerning attendance	Attendance Taskforce, Communications	Completed

Please click the link below to review the full Truancy Reduction Plan

([Link](#))

Attendance Data Monitoring

- Attendance Taskforce of school-based leaders and District leaders
- Analyze Monthly Reports from Monitoring and Accountability
- Implemented a Daily Attendance Entry Analytics Report (NEW)
- Encourage the regular review of student attendance via the Parent Portal
- Implemented a Districtwide automated parent letter via the SIS at specific thresholds



Attendance Messaging

- Created Attendance PSA featuring Interim Superintendent, County Executive, County Council Chairman, Acting State's Attorney (NEW)
- Distributed a parent letter on behalf of the Interim Superintendent to highlight the importance of daily school attendance (NEW)
- Redesigned Districtwide Messaging with the Communications Department (i.e., website, posters) (NEW)
- Created an Attendance Mascot and hosted a Mascot Naming Contest for elementary school students (NEW)



Attendance Interventions & Strategies

- Public-facing **database** to showcase data trends (District, School-based, Individual Students)
- State's Attorney's Truancy Grant (15 Schools) NEW
- Parent Forums on Attendance with the Department of Family and Community Partnerships and the Board Office (NEW)
- Sample **Agenda** - Quarterly School-based Parent Attendance Forum & Resource Fair
- PGCPs **Monitoring Checklist** by Role
- Sample Teacher **Call Scripts**



Attendance: Engaging Community Partners

- **Community Letter of Support - (Districtwide Initiative)**
 - **Goal:** To invite local businesses to contribute awards, coupons, gifts, gift cards, or other incentives for students and/or staff as they work toward the District's attendance goal
- **Quarterly School-based Parent Attendance Forums and Resource Fairs**
 - **Target Audience:** Parents/guardians and students with 10 or more unlawful absence days
 - Organized and facilitated by the school-based Attendance Team
 - Invite staff, community partners, and internal and external resources who may address reasons for student absenteeism



Attendance: Engaging County Partnerships

- **County Truancy Reduction Collaborative Meetings**
 - Comprised of members from the County Council, the County Executive's Office, the State's Attorney Office, Library Services, Juvenile Services, Department of Social Services, Circuit Courts, Family Services, Community Agency
- **Extended Strategic Partnership Meetings**
 - Comprised of members from the Non-Profits, Local Businesses and Faith-Based Community, Community Organizations, Pan-Hellenic, Parent and Student Organizations
- **Quarterly Meetings**
 - To review data trends and District efforts
 - To develop a coordinated approach to address chronic absenteeism as a County



Attendance Ambassador Initiative



PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS • www.pgcps.org



Expectations of Attendance Ambassadors



Collaborate with the district with consistent attendance messaging.



Use the toolkits provided by PGCPS to promote school attendance.



Contribute information to school system messaging.



Communicate with PGCPS of any known barriers to attendance.



Promote in key attendance months (i.e. September Attendance Awareness Month).



Report quarterly with PGCPS Attendance Ambassador facilitators.



Provide incentives and recognition to students demonstrating positive attendance.



Help identify additional potential Attendance Ambassadors



Use your voice and influence to encourage student attendance.



Regularly attend Ambassador meetings (your attendance matters too)