

# Using Data to Inform School Budgets and Policy

MASC/MASS Joint Conference

November 7, 2024

## We want to hear...

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1. What is a priority area where your district does a good job using data?
2. What is a priority area where you want to use data more effectively?

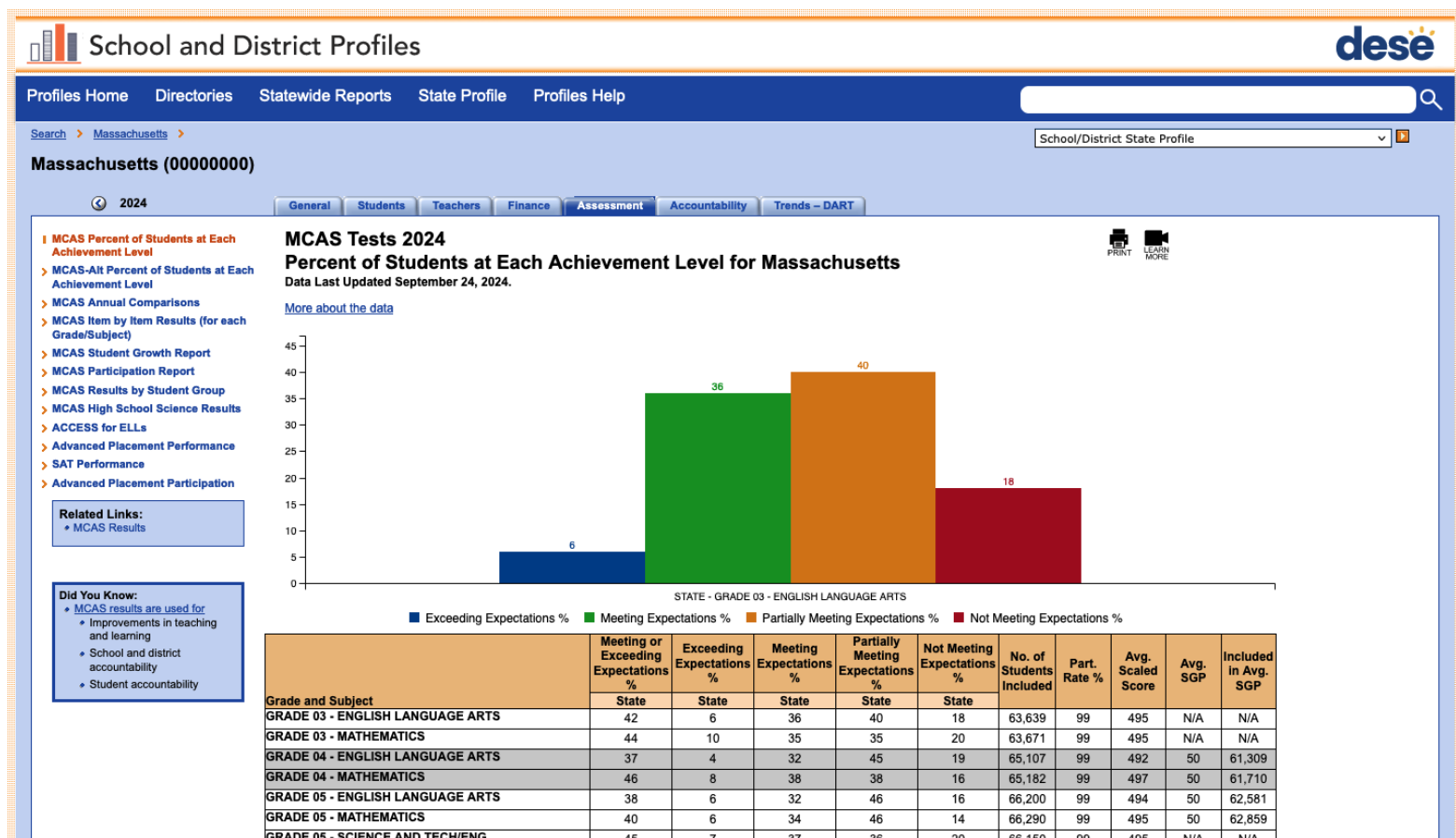
How many of you have used this chart, or something like it, in data meetings?

What questions do you want to ask next when you see this chart?

- Student groups
- Trend over time
- Compare to other districts

How does your team usually make those things happen?

- Download data from [Profiles](#)
- Use [DART](#)
- Have a bunch of Google Sheets that only a couple people know how to use



## School and District Profiles

Filters (4) [Clear All](#)

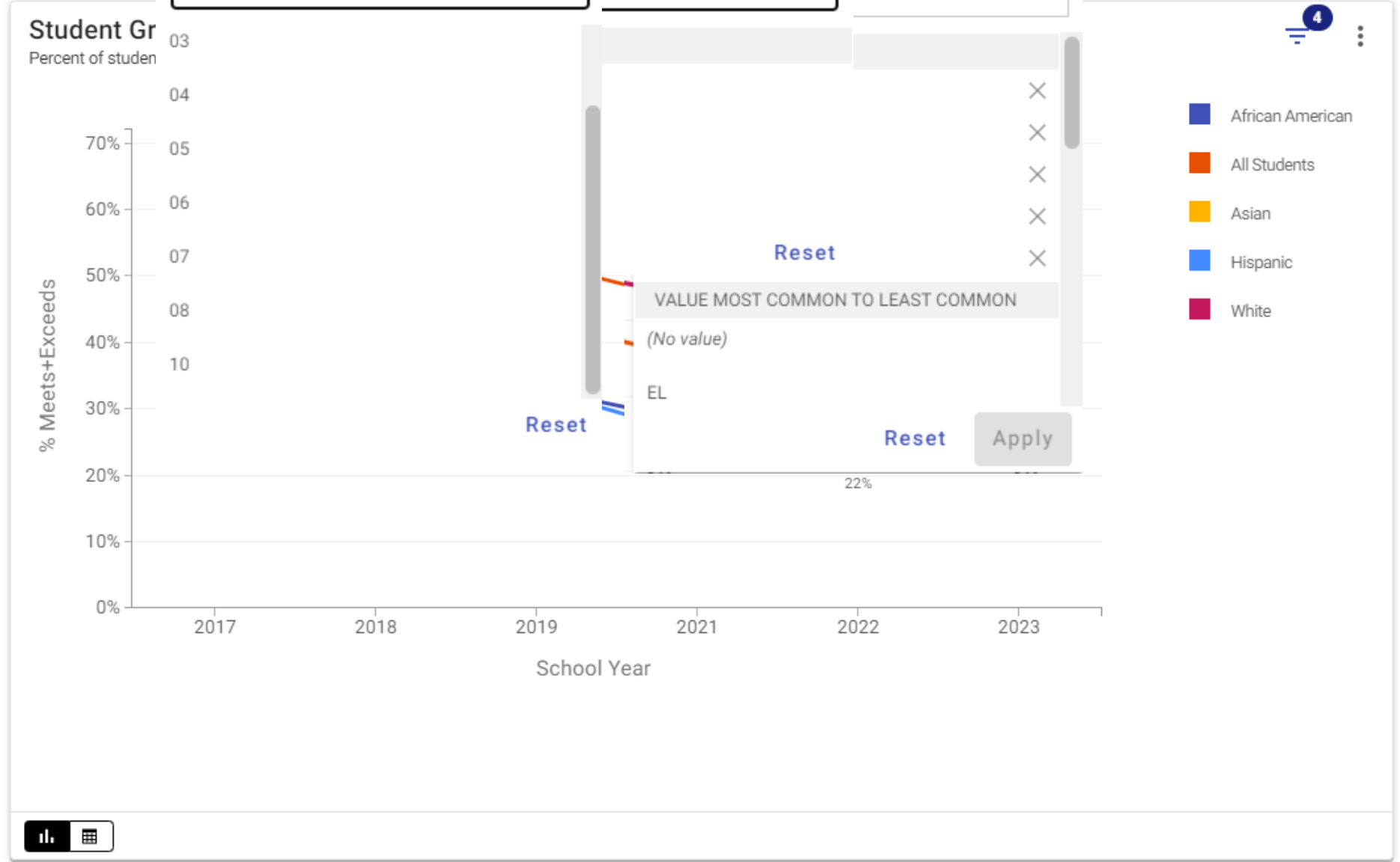
DISTRICT\_AND\_SCHOOL: State

TEST\_GRADE: ALL (03-08)

SUBJECT\_CODE: ELA

STUGRP: 5 selected

TEST\_GRADE



# MCAS Data Trends

Explore trends in MCAS achievement by school and district since 2017.

Compare results among:

- student groups
- schools
- grades
- subjects

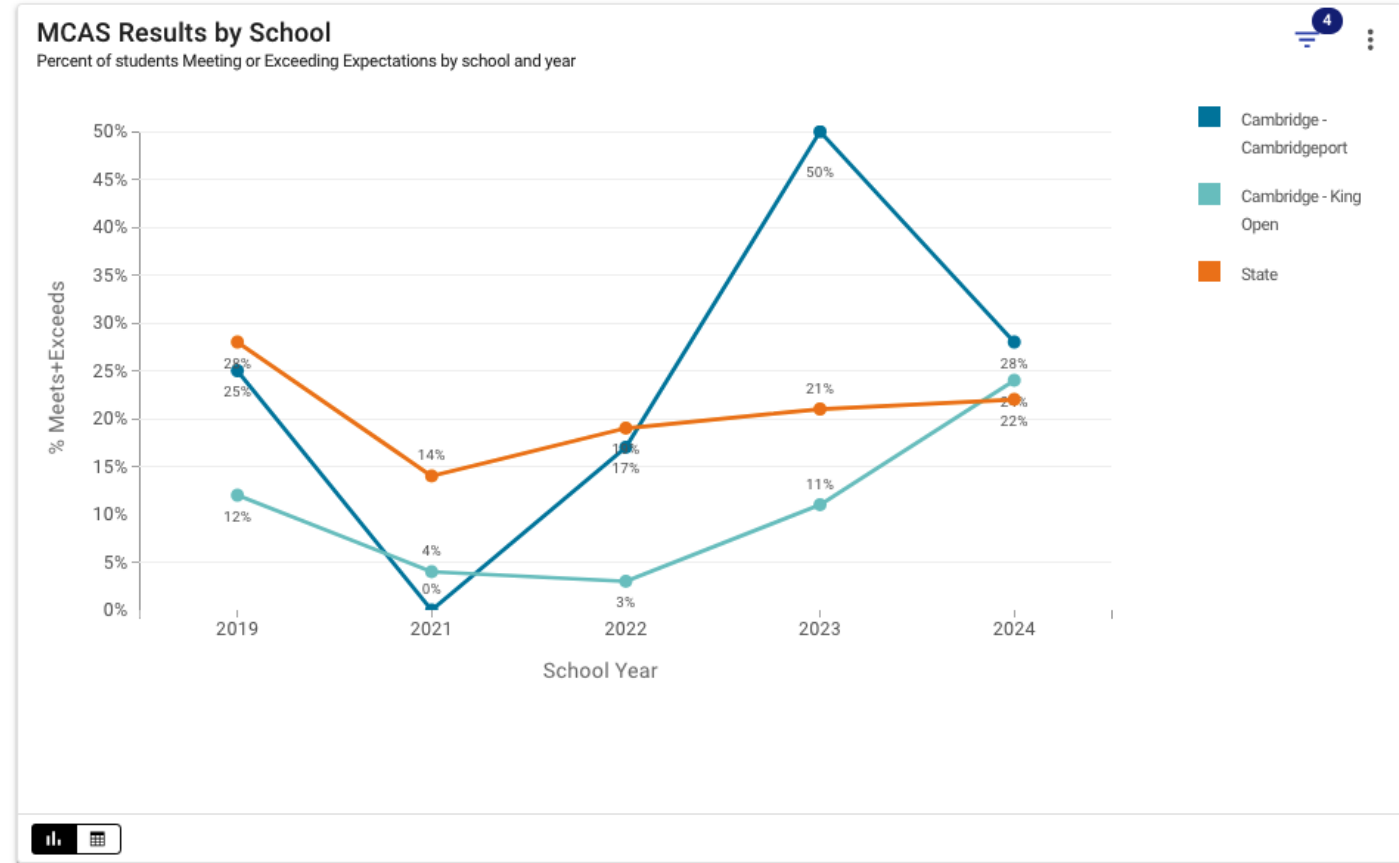
Filters (4)  
Clear All

DISTRICT\_AND\_SCHOOL: 3 selected

TEST\_GRADE: ALL (03-08)

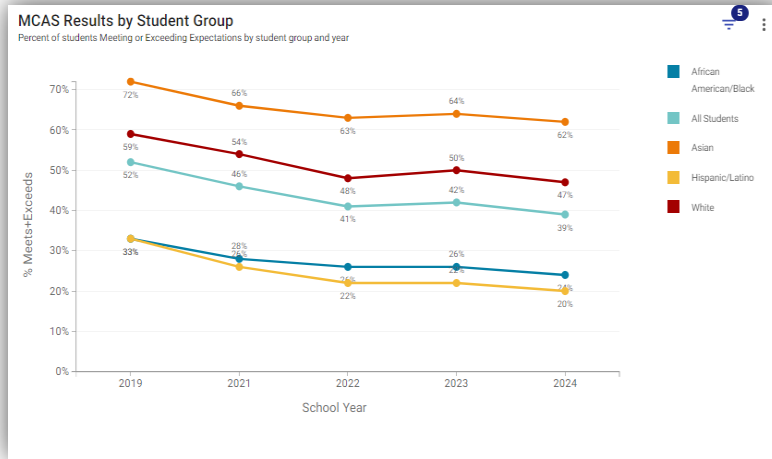
SUBJECT\_CODE: MATH

STUGRP: African American/Black

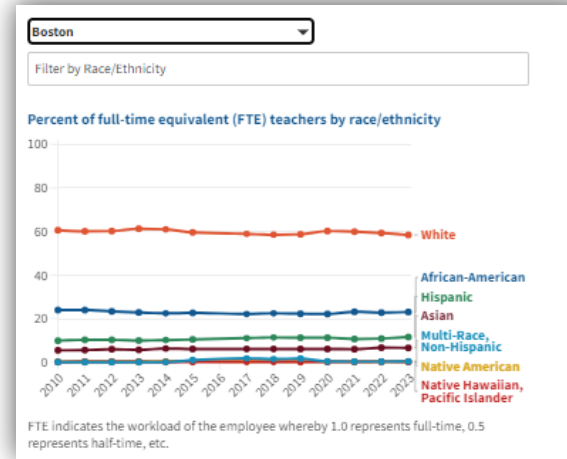


# Common policy or priority areas

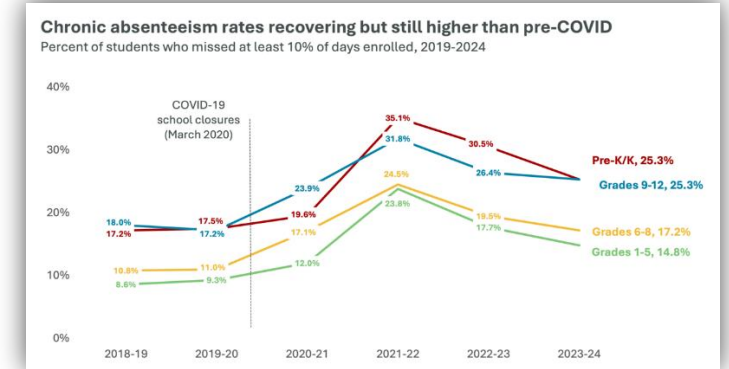
## MCAS Recovery



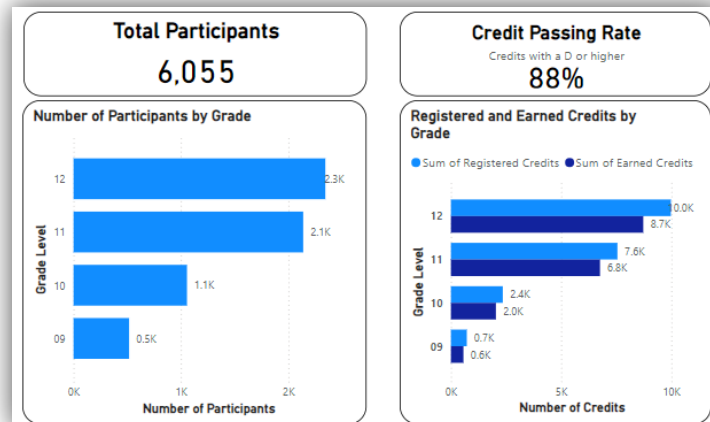
## Teacher Diversity



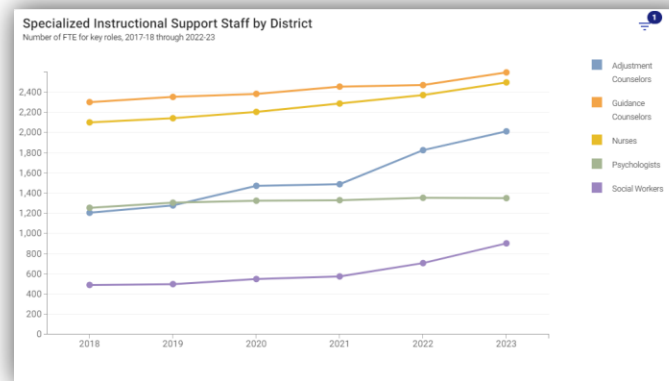
## Attendance and Chronic Absenteeism



## Early College



## Social-Emotional Supports



## And more...

- Budget
- College matriculation
- Class size
- Supports for ELs, special ed



[EducationtoCareer.data.mass.gov](https://educationtocareer.data.mass.gov)

# Massachusetts Education- to-Career Research and Data Hub

Increasing data access to promote equity

 Search for data, e.g.: graduation rates, MCAS...

Welcome! Our website is new, and we'd love your feedback. Take this [3 minute survey](#)

# E2C Hub Vision

## Increasing data access to promote equity



Families

I can see **how well my child's school is performing** relative to other schools in the district on various measures of success.



HS Principal

I can **see which courses are best preparing our students of color to finish college**



Researcher

I can **design my research to address the state's priorities** and get easy access to data



Policymakers

I can **track the results of programs we have invested in**



College Dean

I can **identify which students are most likely to need additional academic support** before they start college



Teachers

I can **learn which interventions are having long-term impact**



# Datasets currently in the E2C Hub

## **K-12**

[K-12 Enrollment: Grade, Race, Gender, and Selected Populations](#)  
[School Attending Children](#)  
[Student Attendance Report](#)  
[Student Retention Report](#)  
[Student Mobility Rate](#)  
[Dropout Report](#)  
[Next Generation MCAS Achievement Results](#)  
[Arts Course Taking](#)  
[Digital Literacy and Computer Science Course Taking](#)  
[MassCore Curriculum Completion](#)  
[Advanced Course Completion](#)  
[Pathways/Programs Enrollment by Grade](#)  
[Advanced Placement \(AP\) Performance](#)  
[Advanced Placement \(AP\) Participation](#)  
[Early College Participation](#)  
[Early College Credits](#)  
[VOCAL Index Scaled Scores and Favorability](#)  
[VOCAL Item Response Scores](#)  
[DART: Success After High School](#)  
[K-12 Staffing: Race/Ethnicity and Gender](#)  
[Special Education Program Characteristics and Student Demographics](#)  
[Special Education Placement Trajectory](#)  
[Students Moving In and Out of Special Education Services](#)  
[Special Education Indicators](#)  
[Special Education Student Progression from High School Through Postsecondary Education](#)  
[Non-Public School Enrollment](#)

## **Early Childhood**

[Funded and Licensed Child Care Providers](#)  
[Pre-Kindergarten and Kindergarten Enrollment](#)

## **College and Career**

[MA Public Postsecondary Fall Enrollment by Race and Gender](#)  
[Public Postsecondary Annual Enrollment](#)  
[Public Postsecondary Fall Enrollment](#)  
[Public Postsecondary First Year Retention by Gender](#)  
[Public Postsecondary First Year Retention by Race](#)  
[Public Postsecondary First Year Retention: Summary](#)  
[Public Postsecondary Awards Conferred Statewide](#)  
[Public Postsecondary Awards Conferred by Institution: Detail](#)  
[Public Postsecondary Awards Conferred by Institution: Summary](#)  
[Public College and University Tuition and Fees](#)  
[Average Earnings by Student Group](#)  
[Average Annual Earnings by Industry](#)  
[College and Career Outcomes](#)

## **Educator Workforce**

[MTEL Pass Rates by Race/Ethnicity](#)  
[Educator Licensure by Race/Ethnicity](#)  
[Experienced and In-Field Teachers](#)  
[Educator Preparation Candidate Enrollment and Program Completion](#)  
[Total Educators, Retention, and New Hires](#)  
[Education Preparation Program Completers](#)

# Exploring the datasets

## Search for datasets

attendance

SEARCH 

Begin by entering a search term or phrase, such as MCAS, childcare, mental health, tuition, enrollment, earnings, etc.

[Browse all datasets](#) →

Q attendance

11 Results Sort by Most Relevant

**Student Attendance Report** Dataset

This report includes indicators that reflect attendance data for students in Massachusetts public schools since 2003. Because the information collected has changed over time, not all indicators are available across all years. [More](#)

Tags: absentee, attendance, demographics, disability, gender, and 4 more [API Docs](#)

Updated January 29, 2024  
Views 127

**School Attending Children** Dataset

This dataset contains the number of students attending different types of Massachusetts schools by town since 1985. It includes full-time students whose parents or legal guardians are residents of the city or town. [More](#)

Tags: attendance, enrollment [API Docs](#)

Updated January 17, 2024  
Views 63

About **Data** Related Content [Actions](#) [Export](#)

### Student Attendance Report

Q Search X

SY	ATTE...	DIST_...	DIST_...	ORG_...	ORG_...	ORG_...	STUG...	ATTE...	CNT_...	PCT_...
2023	End of Year	00000000	State	00000000	State Totals	State	African Amr	92%	13.9	48%
2023	March	00000000	State	00000000	State Totals	State	African Amr	92%	8.5	30%
2023	End of Year	00000000	State	00000000	State Totals	State	All Students	92.5%	13.1	49.5%
		00000000	State	00000000	State Totals	State	All Students	92.3%	8.3	29.1%
	ear	00000000	State	00000000	State Totals	State	American In	90.2%	17	60.3%
		00000000	State	00000000	State Totals	State	American In	90%	10.6	39.4%
	ear	00000000	State	00000000	State Totals	State	Asian	94.7%	9.4	35.2%
		00000000	State	00000000	State Totals	State	Asian	94.4%	6	19.2%
		00000000	State	00000000	State Totals	State	English Lea	90.2%	10.2	38.7%
	ear	00000000	State	00000000	State Totals	State	English Lea	90.4%	16	58.1%
2023	March	00000000	State	00000000	State Totals	State	Female	92.3%	8.3	29.1%
2023	End of Year	00000000	State	00000000	State Totals	State	Female	92.5%	13.2	49.9%

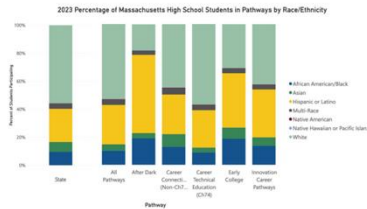
Columns

## Getting Started

# Data stories & dashboards

## College and Career Outcomes Report

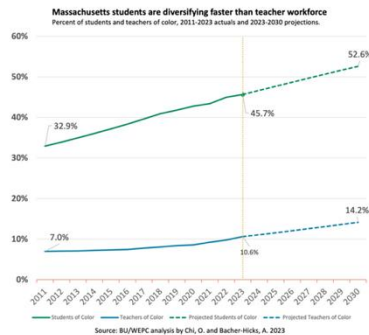
DEC. 30, 2023 — This annual report presents charts and key findings on student preparedness for workforce and post-secondary education, including graduation rates, MassCore and advanced coursework completion, participation in College and Career Pathways, college attendance and persistence, and wages.



[Review the 2023 report →](#)

## The state of educator racial diversity in Massachusetts

DEC. 15, 2023 — This data story reports on trends in student and teacher diversity in districts across Massachusetts. Drawing on demographic data at each step of the educator pipeline, it identifies points where gaps exist and potential teachers of color may face barriers. Finally, it identifies state grants and initiatives to promote diversity along the pipeline and shares data from two programs.



[Examine educator racial diversity across the pipeline →](#)

## Early Childhood Integrated Data System (ECIDS)

OCT. 18, 2023 — This report describes the first-ever initiative in Massachusetts to link participation across state programs serving children birth-to-five and demonstrates its power in producing significant insights, especially related to equity. Charts explore the demographics of children served by WIC, Early Intervention, public preschool, and other programs, showing where they overlap and potential gaps.

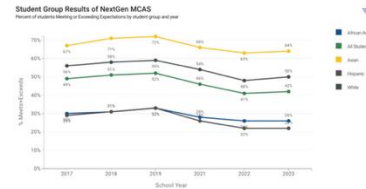


[Read about ECIDS →](#)

## MCAS Data Explorer

OCT. 2, 2023 — This interactive chart helps you explore trends in MCAS achievement by school and district since 2017. View results by student group, or use companion charts to compare results across schools, subjects, and test grades.

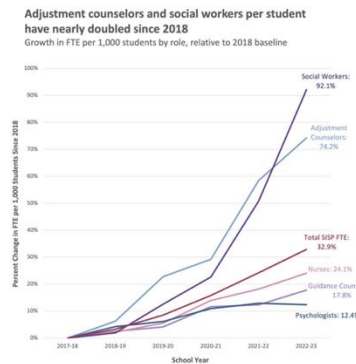
[Try the MCAS Data Explorer →](#)



## Investing in students' social-emotional learning and mental health

OCT. 2, 2023 — This data story identifies new sources of funding for social and emotional learning (SEL) and mental health in K-12 schools, charts trends in staffing to support student wellness, and highlights resources to better understand and address health and safety issues to improve student success.

[Read about recent investments in students' wellness →](#)



## Measuring progress toward racial equity in public higher education

OCT. 2, 2023 — A new set of aspirational universal targets will help move public higher education in Massachusetts toward its goal of racial equity over the next decade. This data story describes how and why the targets were established and features an interactive chart to measure the distance from baseline data to universal targets for each student group.

[Explore the Department of Higher Education's Racial Equity Targets →](#)



## Upcoming topics:

- Free community college
- High school pathways
- Early literacy

Link:

<https://educationtocareer.data.mass.gov/stories/s/gu9b-7kb7>

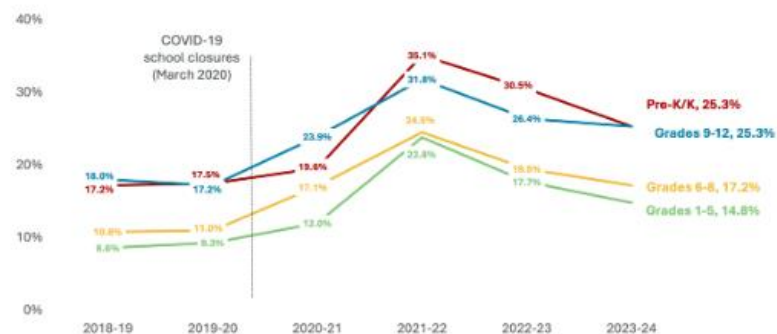
# Data stories – Making it relevant to leaders and the public

## Reducing chronic absenteeism in our schools

This data story examines the scope of chronic absenteeism in Massachusetts, how it affects student success, and evidence-based strategies to improve student attendance. School leaders across Massachusetts are using data to measure their own ongoing efforts to reduce chronic absenteeism. The story highlights one example of how the data show interventions are working in the Lowell Public Schools.

### Chronic absenteeism rates recovering but still higher than pre-COVID

Percent of students who missed at least 10% of days enrolled, 2019-2024



## Key takeaways

Since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, students have missed far more days of school than in the past. A student is counted as chronically absent if they missed 10% of days enrolled in a school in any given year. Typically, this means the student missed at least 18 school days out of a 180-day school year.

- In 2022-23, 22.2% of students were chronically absent. This is an improvement from 2021-22 (27.7%) but still much higher than the pre-pandemic baseline (12.9% in 2018-19).
- All student groups had much higher rates of chronic absenteeism in 2022-23 compared to the pre-pandemic baseline, but some groups stand out with especially elevated rates:
  - Chronic absenteeism is highest in kindergarten and high school. It is lowest among students in grades 1-5.
  - Hispanic or Latino students are the most likely of any ethnic-racial group to be chronically absent (34.5% in 2022-23).
  - Asian students have the largest increase in chronic absenteeism from pre-pandemic rates of any ethnic-racial group, nearly doubling to 13.9% in 2022-23 compared with 7.6% in 2018-19. However, they have the lowest rates of chronic absenteeism of any student group.
  - English learners and students with disabilities have higher rates of chronic absenteeism than students overall.
- There is no meaningful difference in chronic absenteeism by gender.
- The Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) is taking steps to highlight this issue and support schools to improve attendance. DESE provides funding and guidance on evidence-based practices.

Link:

<https://educationtocareer.data.mass.gov/stories/s/vuut-f46x>

## What is chronic absenteeism?

Massachusetts defines chronic absenteeism as missing at least 10% of the school year for any reason. Usually this means 18 absences out of a 180-day school year, but a student enrolled for only half the school year (90 days) would be counted chronically absent with 9 or more absences. Chronic absence does not distinguish between excused and unexcused absences, illness, obstacles such as lack of transportation, or truancy. Students need only miss two days of school per month to become chronically absent. The rate matters because chronic absenteeism is associated with lower student outcomes at every grade span

# Using data in the Data Hub

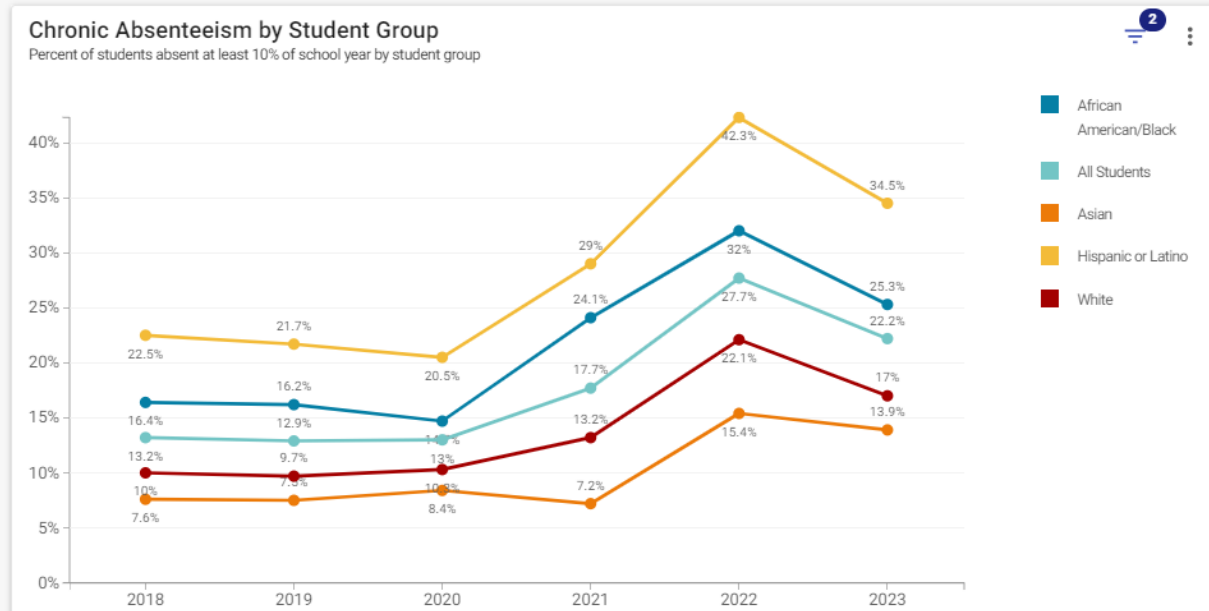
## Explore rates of chronic absenteeism by school

Select a school or district from the drop-down menu below to view trends in chronic absenteeism since 2018. Begin typing the name for a short list. Use the Student Group filter to compare any combination of categories of race/ethnicity, gender, English learner status, disabilities status, income, and more.

Filters (2) Clear All

DISTRICT\_AND\_SCHOOL: State

STUGRP: 5 selected



### Export dataset

Only the data returned by your current query will be exported.

[Download file](#) [API endpoint](#)

Export format: CSV

[Cancel](#) [Download](#)

# Best tools for policy discussions

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## **DART** – Compare school and district data

- District and schools
- High school and beyond
- DART for ELLs



## **RADAR** – Compare district finance data

- RADAR Benchmarking
- RADAR Special Education

# DART Success After High School



## SCHOOL COMPARISON Oxford - Oxford High

Select a student group:

All students

ORGNAMES

- Abby Kelley Foster Charter
- Abington - Abington High
- Academy Of the Pacific Rim ...
- Acton-Boxborough - Acton...
- Advanced Math and Science...
- Agawam - Agawam High
- Amesbury - Amesbury High
- Amesbury - Amesbury Innov...
- Amherst-Pelham - Amherst ...
- Andover - Andover High
- Argosy Collegiate Charter S...
- Arlington - Arlington High
- Ashburnham-Westminster - ...
- Ashland - Ashland High
- Assabet Valley RVT
- Athol-Royalston - Athol High
- Atlantis Charter
- Attleboro - Attleboro Comm...
- Attleboro - Attleboro High
- Attleboro - Attleboro Virtual ...
- Auburn - Auburn Senior High
- Avon - Avon Middle High Sc...
- Ayer Shirley - Ayer Shirley R...
- Barnstable - Barnstable High

Select a category

PROGRAM OF STUDY

Select an indicator

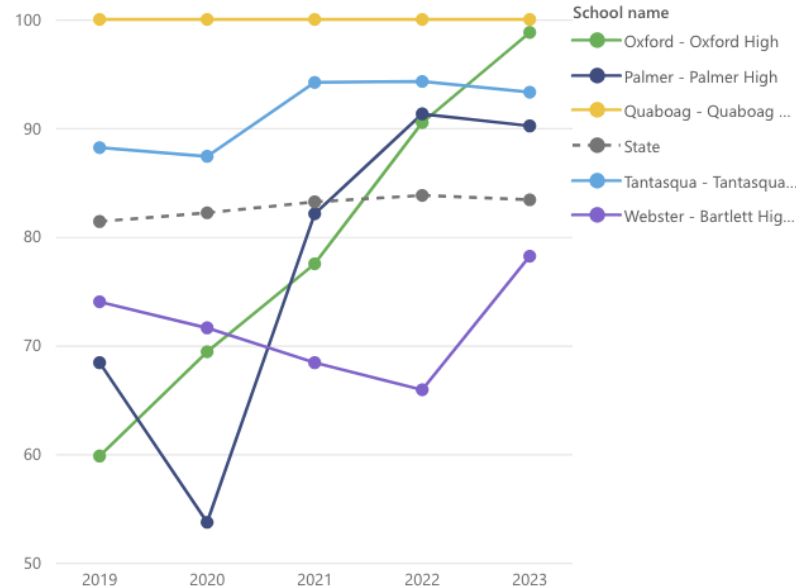
High school graduates who completed MassCore

**Suppression:** Data is suppressed if fewer than 10 students for HS Performance category and fewer than 6 for others.

**Note:** From 2022 onward, low income is reported instead of economically disadvantaged. For more information, click [here](#).

Show more about data

All Students



School name		2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Webster - Bartlett High School	Stud included	104	95	79	91	78
	# of students	77	68	54	60	61
	%/Avg	74.0	71.6	68.4	65.9	78.2
Tantasqua - Tantasqua Regional Sr High	Stud included	161	191	172	158	165
	# of students	142	167	162	149	154
	%/Avg	88.2	87.4	94.2	94.3	93.3
State	Stud included	68,233	68,405	68,947	68,919	66,858
	# of students	55,523	56,233	57,368	57,733	55,778
	%/Avg	81.4	82.2	83.2	83.8	83.4
Quaboag - Quaboag Regional High	Stud included	97	64	87	75	94
	# of students	97	64	87	75	94
	%/Avg	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Palmer - Palmer High	Stud included	98	82	78	69	61
	# of students	67	44	64	63	55
	%/Avg	68.4	53.7	83.1	81.2	88.7

Link to dashboard:  
<https://app.powerbigov.us/view?r=eyJrIjoieY2E5YTI3MDctNTNkNi00OTRmLTkyNzEtMmMzODNmYzUyZmQxliwidCI6IjNIODYxZDE2LTQ4YjctNGEwZS05ODA2LTljMjRkODFiN2lyYSJ9>

Home

School Comparison

Student Group Comparison

Indicator Comparison

User Information

Dashboard Tips and Tricks

Download data



Begin Exploring!



Visit: [Mass.gov/e2c](https://Mass.gov/e2c)

Email: [E2CHub@mass.gov](mailto:E2CHub@mass.gov)