



Attendance Study

Study Overview

The Ohio Department of Education is partnering with the Ohio Education Research Center (OERC) to conduct a statewide study on school attendance. This study seeks to learn more about patterns and outcomes related to student attendance in Ohio, as well as local school district attendance policies. The study seeks to answer four broad overarching research questions:

- 1) What patterns exist regarding student attendance in Ohio?
- 2) How is student attendance related to academic achievement?
- 3) How are excused and unexcused absences operationalized and tracked?
- 4) How do districts use data to identify students in need of interventions? What strategies are districts using?

Data Collection Instruments and Timeline

This study will use three primary instruments for data collection and analysis:

- The OERC has begun analyzing **EMIS data** records from 2016 - 2023 to identify statewide patterns of student attendance and examine the relationship between student attendance and academic achievement.
- The OERC will enter into **local data agreements** with **select school districts** to engage in further analyses regarding patterns of student attendance and the relationship between student attendance and academic achievement. This will be completed between September – December 2023.
- In the fall of 2023, a **statewide survey** will be administered to collect data on how Ohio school districts and community schools operationalize and track excused and unexcused absence, and how districts use data to identify students in need of interventions.

What will be done with the results of this study?

Findings from the EMIS data analysis, district deep dives, and statewide surveys will be synthesized and presented in guidance documents in the early spring of 2024. The format for these final guidance documents will be determined in consultation with ODE and based on feedback and guidance from a stakeholder engagement group.

Whom do I contact for more information?

Jessica Collura, PhD
Senior Research Associate, Ohio Education Research Center
collura.6@osu.edu

The Ohio Education Research Center (OERC) addresses critical issues of education practice and policy through a preschool-through-workforce research agenda. The OERC is member of the Ohio Longitudinal Data Archive, an administrative data partnership that supports the education and workforce research priorities of Ohio's public agencies and the OERC. The center is a unit of the John Glenn College of Public Affairs at The Ohio State University.