Around 4,000 fewer students are enrolled in Rhode Island public schools in 2020-21 than we would have expected based on previous years, a decrease of 3.1%. Public school enrollment in previous years had been relatively stable with changes that ranged between -0.1% and 0.9%.

* Data drawn from the RIDE Production Database on February 12, 2021 of students enrolled as of February 12 of each school year.
In pre-k and kindergarten, enrollment totals dropped by 26% and 9% respectively (883 and 915 fewer students). In the elementary and middle grades, enrollments dropped by around 2 to 4 percent. Enrollment in grades 11 and 12 slightly increased in 2020-21.
Traditional LEA enrollment dropped by 4%, while charter school enrollment rose by 8%. Some of this increase is due to planned charter scale-up and unrelated to the pandemic.
Total Number of Absences 2019-20 vs 2020-21 (Statewide, first 80 days)

- Total absences in 2020-21 have increased by 46%
### Number of Absences by Student (Statewide, first 80 days)

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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 to 10 absences</td>
<td>104,459</td>
<td>73,167</td>
<td>11,083</td>
<td>15,135</td>
<td>2,295</td>
<td>6,811</td>
<td>856</td>
<td>3,543</td>
<td>1,007</td>
<td>4,415</td>
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<td>(students)</td>
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<td>and</td>
<td>401,057</td>
<td>and</td>
<td>155,242</td>
<td>and</td>
<td>56,452</td>
<td>170,015</td>
<td>and</td>
<td>124,190</td>
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<td>255,073</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Increase in absences is mainly driven by students being absent more days rather than more students being absent.
RIDE will further disaggregate the 'chronically absent category' (absent 10% or more schooldays) into more detailed categories.

**Absence Rate Categories**
- **Low** ▶ absent fewer than 5% of schooldays
- **Moderate** ▶ absent between 5% and 10% of schooldays
- **Chronic** ▶ absent between 10% and 20% of schooldays
- **Excessive** ▶ absent between 20% and 50% of schooldays
- **Mostly absent** ▶ absent more than 50% of schooldays

Around 20,000 students have been absent 20% or more schooldays in 2020-21.

* 2019-20 data is from the March snapshot and 2020-21 data is as of 2/11/21
Public schools with higher poverty levels have more students in the chronic, moderate, excessive, and mostly absent categories.

2020-21 Absence Rate Categories by Poverty Level*

* High poverty schools are those with >=50% of FRPL students. Low poverty schools are schools with <=20% FRPL students.
Higher grade levels generally had a higher proportion of students in the chronic, excessive, and mostly absent categories.

High school absences in high poverty schools are notably greater. Around 12% of high school students in these schools were absent for more than half of the school days.
Both FRPL status and Race/Ethnicity are associated with absence rates.

FRPL students of color constitute a greater percentage of the higher absence rate categories.

Overall, Hispanics have the highest absence rates after controlling for FRPL status.
Differently abled students were more absent than non differently abled students across school poverty levels.
Multilingual learners were more absent than non multilingual learners across school poverty levels.
2020-21 Absence Rate Categories by Learning Model*

There is no clear relationship between learning model and absence rates.

Hybrid models of instruction have the highest absence rates for high and mid poverty schools, while distance education has the highest absence rates for low poverty schools.

Differences might be explained in part by how attendance is tracked/reported by LEAs for the different learning models.

* Approximation based on the latest learning model reported for each student. Note that a student may have changed learning model since the day an absence was reported.
• Public Enrollment has declined 3.1% since last school year
• Sharpest enrollment declines in Pre-K (-26%) and K (-9%)
• Traditional LEA enrollment has declined more than 5,000 students (-4%)
• Total absences have increased 46% over last school year
• The increase is driven by some students missing school more frequently, not by more students missing school
• Students that attend a high poverty school are much more likely to be chronically absent
• 20,000 students have missed more than 20% of their school days
• 12% of students that attend a high poverty high school have missed more than half of their school days
• Hispanic students have the highest absenteeism rates after controlling for Free & Reduced Lunch status