



# ST. JOSEPH COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT CASE STUDY



**ST. JOSEPH**  
SCHOOL DISTRICT



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## St. Joseph County School District Snapshot

<https://www.sjsd.k12.mo.us/cms/lib/ MO01001773/Centricity/Domain/6172/ SJSD%20Annual%20Report.pdf>

	18th largest school district in Missouri (22 schools, 11,329 students)
	Pre-K- 12 Grade
<b>84.0%</b>	Attendance rate
<b>71.5%</b>	71.5% Eligible for Free/Reduced Lunch
<b>6.17%</b>	6.17% English language learners
<b>1.60%</b>	1.60% Gifted Participation
<b>15.23</b>	15.23 Students with disabilities
	Average class size- 18 students

## Challenges

The administration at St. Joseph County Public Schools, a large district in Missouri, has high expectations for student attendance. Under the leadership of Dr. Kendra Lau as Director of School Improvement, the district focuses its attention on having a present and engaged student body as a prerequisite to academic achievement. However, St. Joseph School District attendance data continues to show a chronic absenteeism issue, which has persisted for years. The district has put in place measures such as targeted incentives, district-wide communications, and family engagement efforts - but with little measurable improvement in student attendance. There is an overall pattern of chronic absenteeism, including worrisome percentages in kindergarten, 8th grade, and 11th grade.



### 5 Challenges of K-12 Chronic Absenteeism Programs for District Administrators and Schools

- Difficulty implementing programs to fidelity throughout a large school district
- Actionable information about each intervention campaign not available to educators about their specific students
- Absence of concrete data to help analyze or properly measure the effect of intervention campaigns being implemented district-wide
- Existing software programs are exhausting and difficult to parse trends out of the information they do receive
- No easy way to align chronic absenteeism program usage with district-wide improvement plan goals

## Solutions

After hearing about AllHere at the Future of Attendance Summit, the staff at St. Joseph School District reached out to see how the company could partner with the district. The busy administrative staff in the district wants actionable information that is accessed easily, and the attendance team wants to create compelling ways to oversee and monitor their attendance intervention campaigns in an efficient way. In addition, it is important for the district to have a better understanding about the root causes behind the large number of chronically absent students but needed support in understanding the data. St. Joseph School District needs a system that is easy to implement and could provide clear impact reports on each intervention campaigns and the results it has for their students. For these reasons, it was clear that AllHere is a fit for the district's needs and a decision was made to implement AllHere throughout all 20+ schools.



## Implementation

St. Joseph School District launched a “Strive for 5” program for all schools - aiming for five or fewer absences per student each year. AllHere works closely with the district to ensure the district and staff can:

- ✓ **5 Challenges of K-12 Chronic Absenteeism Programs for District Administrators and Schools**
  - Access the student information they need to best plan supports in one central system
  - Understand the root cause behind students chronic absenteeism and suggest intervention strategies that support each root cause
  - Monitor the progress of interventions in real time to proactively adjust supports
  - Evaluate the efficacy of interventions on an individual student and group basis to make continuous improvements to interventions and supports

## Results



Through a successful partnership with Allhere, the attendance team has set St. Joseph School District on the path to achieve the ambitious attendance improvement vision. The district leadership can now track attendance intervention campaigns and create a powerful analysis of the efforts.

**Typical impact at a district like St. Joseph Public Schools:**

-  Increased attendance rates district-wide
-  Reduction of absences at critical elementary grade levels (kindergarten)
-  Improvement in high school attendance
-  Increased state compliance, more schools within the district to meet or exceed state attendance expectations

Moving forward, each school can use the data they receive about the impact of their interventions to refine their campaigns and make a difference for at-risk students. The district also plans to use the data and reports to show stakeholders the current situation and the successes of improvement efforts. St. Joseph School District understands the utilization of AllHere is an important investment in their efforts to proactively identify student needs, deliver targeted interventions, and track progress.

For more information, details, or to set-up your own comprehensive chronic absenteeism intervention management system visit [www.AllHere.com](http://www.AllHere.com).

