

Defining Terms

Average Daily Attendance (ADA)

- School level measure (not student level)
- Notice aggregate attendance at certain point in time (e.g. half-days, holidays, bad weather)
- Masks individual student chronic absences

Truancy

- Counts ONLY unexcused absences
- Emphasizes individual compliance with school rules
- Uses legal, typically more blaming and punitive solutions

Chronic Absence

- Missing 10% counts ALL (excused, unexcused, & suspensions)
- Emphasizes impact of missed days and the benefits of being present
- Uses preventative, problem-solving, trauma sensitive strategies.
- Cultivates family & student engagement