



Chronic Absenteeism in Tennessee's Public Schools

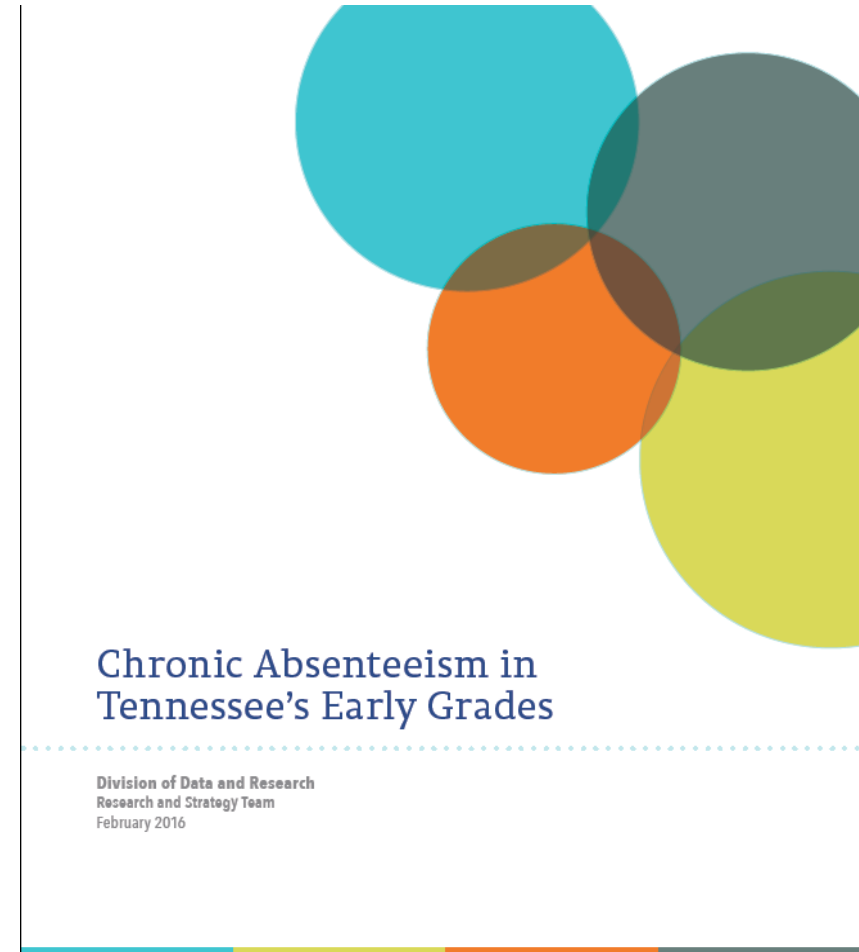
Student non-academic needs are highlighted in *Tennessee Succeeds*

- Under *All Means All* priority:
 - Increase teacher, school, and district access to resources that meet student non-academic needs

- Goal for today:
 - Address Tennessee specific data questions on attendance data

Student non-academic needs are highlighted in *Tennessee Succeeds*

- In February, TDOE's office of research and strategy released a report, [*Chronic Absenteeism in the Early Grades*](#)
- Published school and district-level chronic absenteeism rates on our [Data Downloads](#) page
 - Data was aggregated from EIS



How did we calculate chronic absenteeism rate?

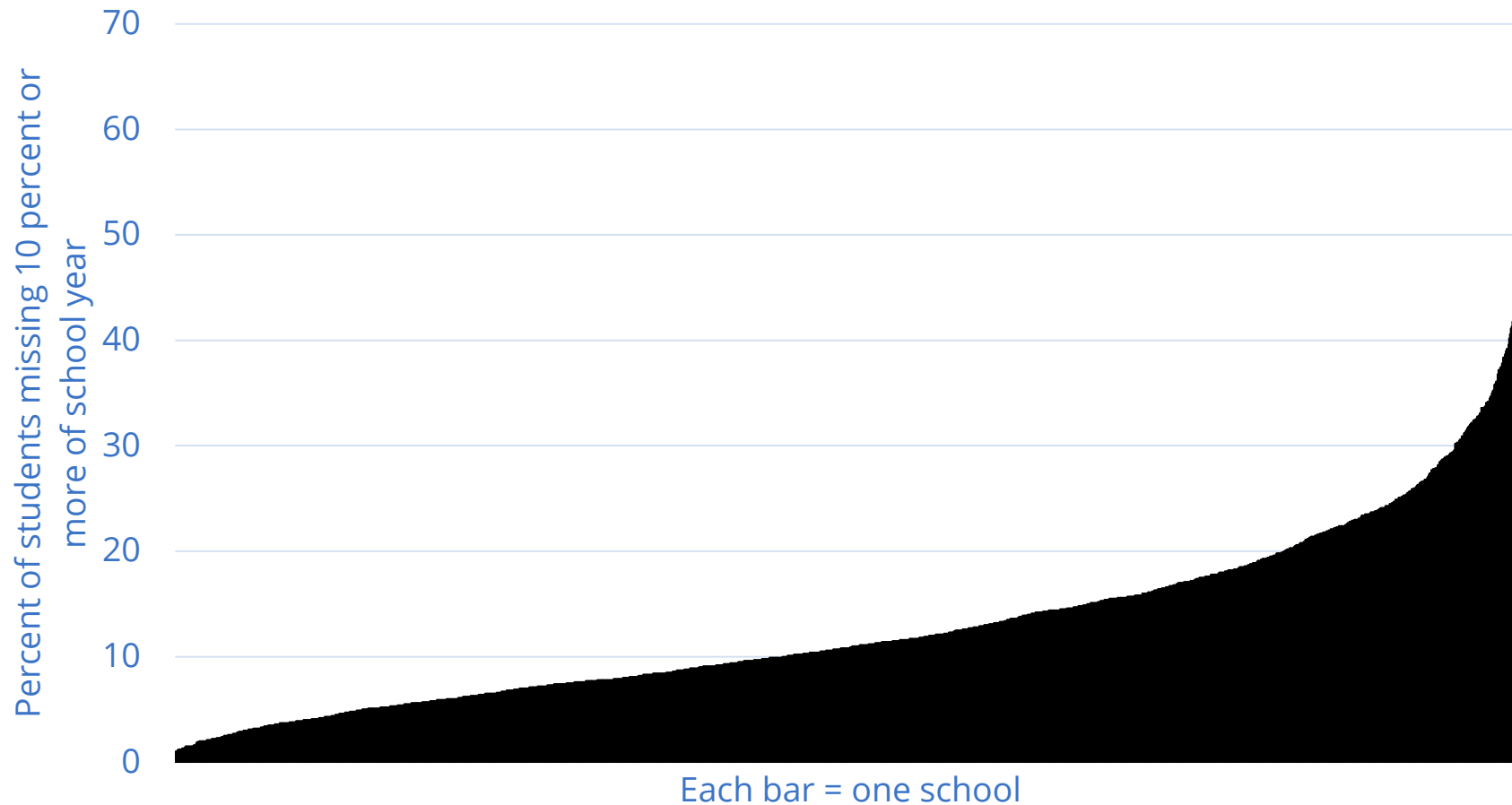
- Step 1 : Was the student chronically absent?

$$\frac{A + U + X}{\text{Days Enrolled}} \geq .10$$

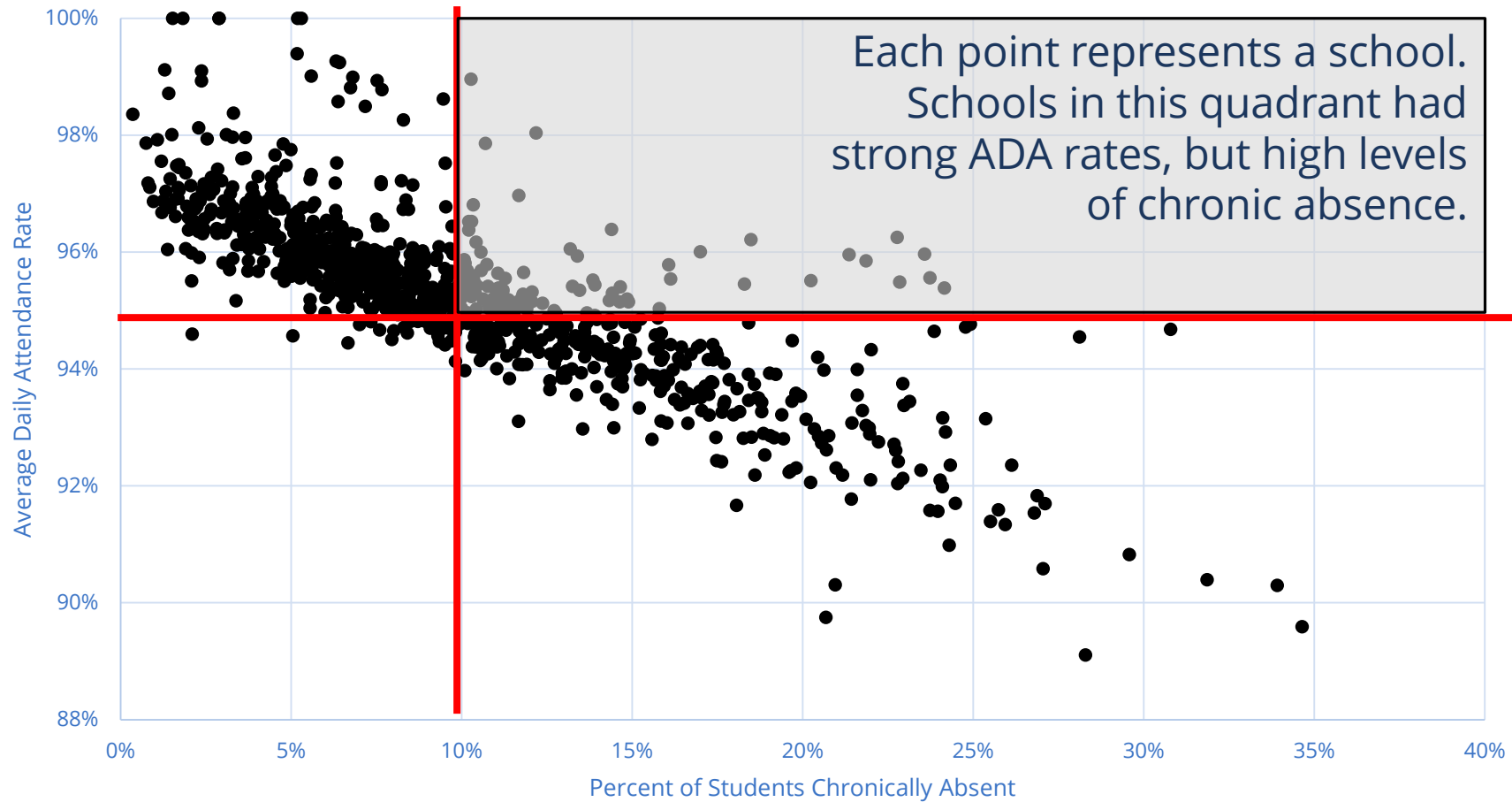
- Step 2: What percent of students in school were chronically absent?

$$\frac{\text{Total Students} \geq .1 \text{ over entire school year}}{\text{October 1 RC membership}}$$

Chronic absence is a challenge for nearly every Tennessee public school— Elementary, Middle, and High

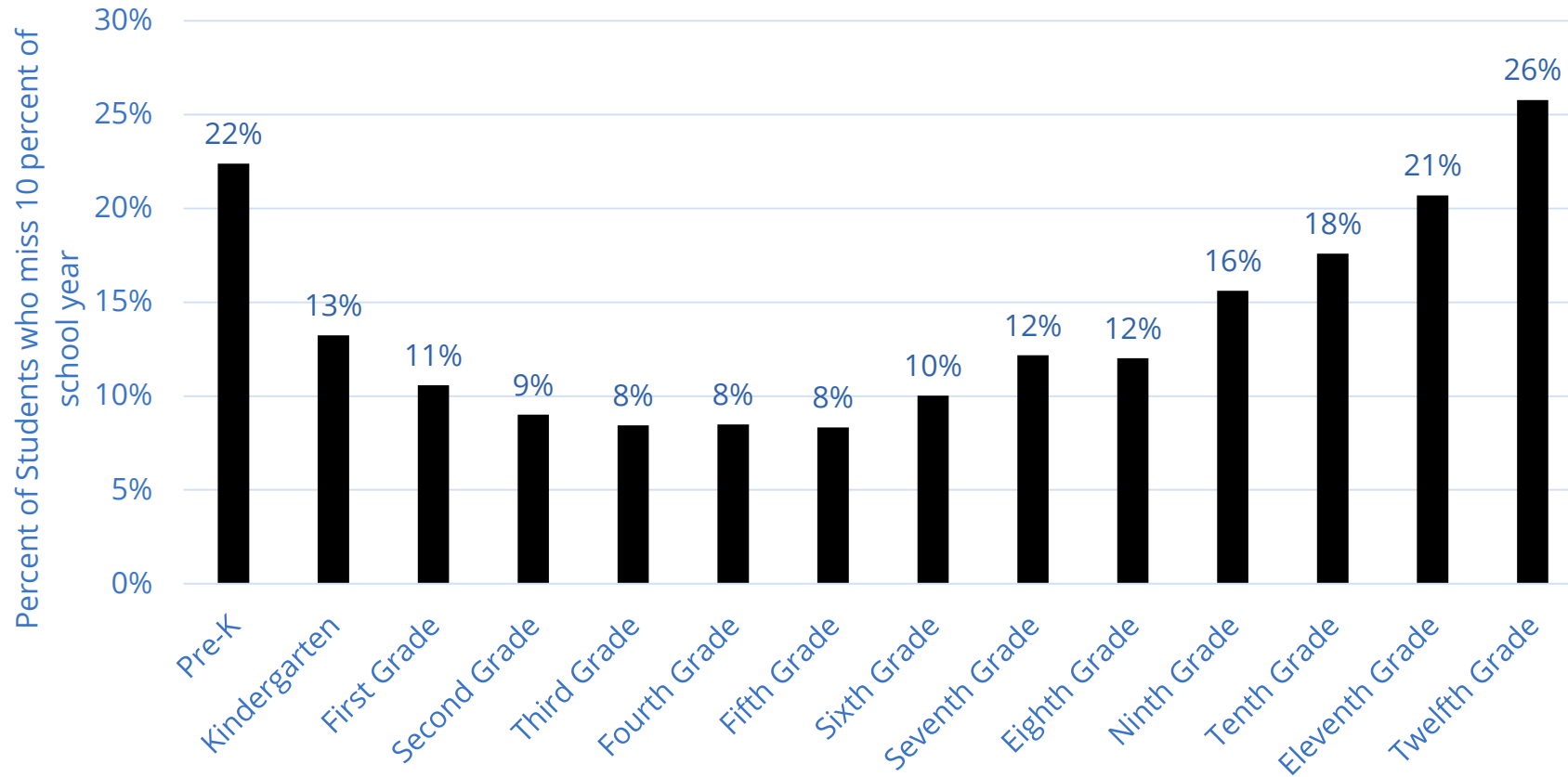


ADA and Chronic Absenteeism Rate are related, but can conflict. ADA tells how many, CA how often and how many.

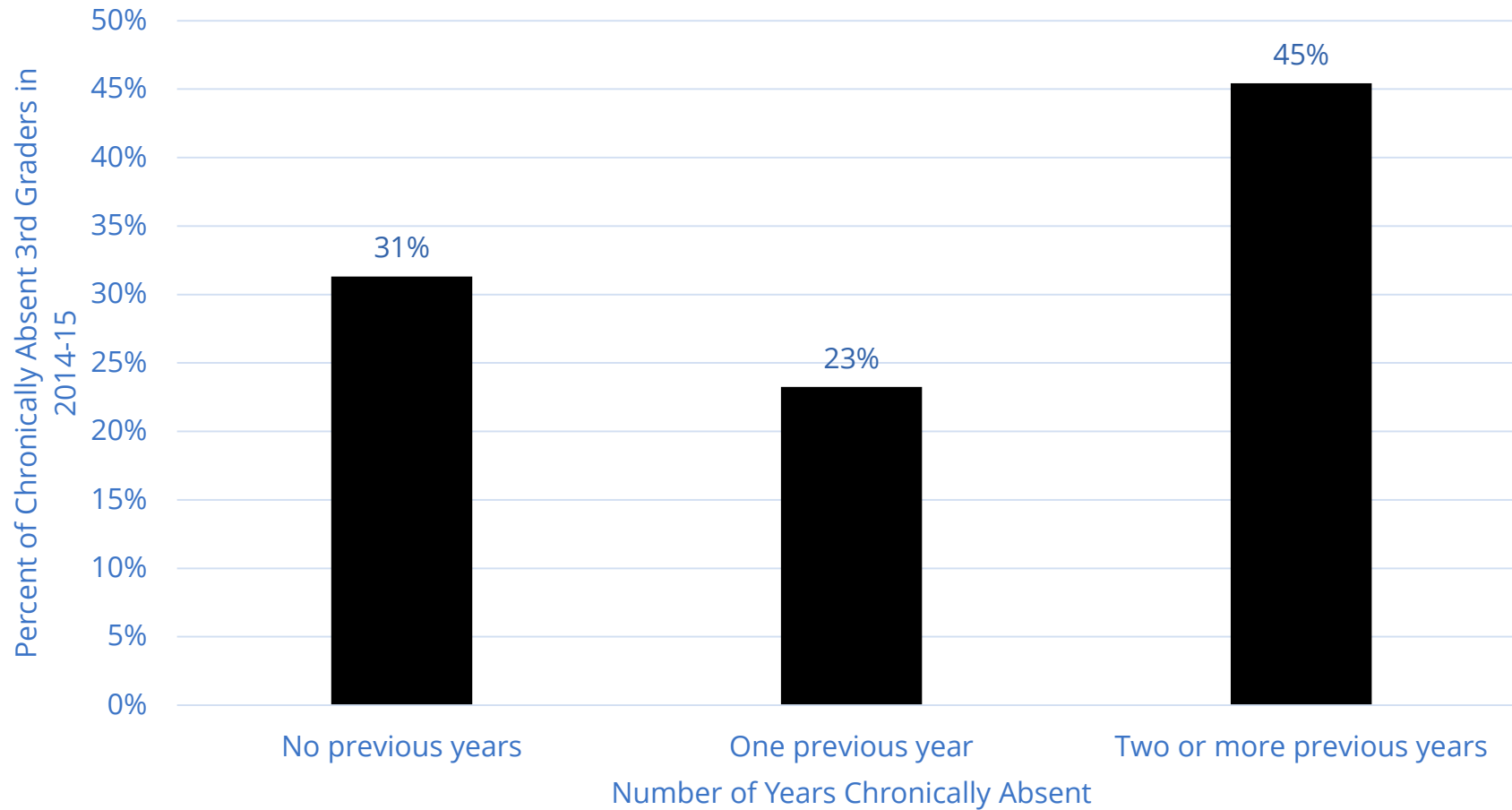


Focus on the early grades to target areas where foundational learning occurs

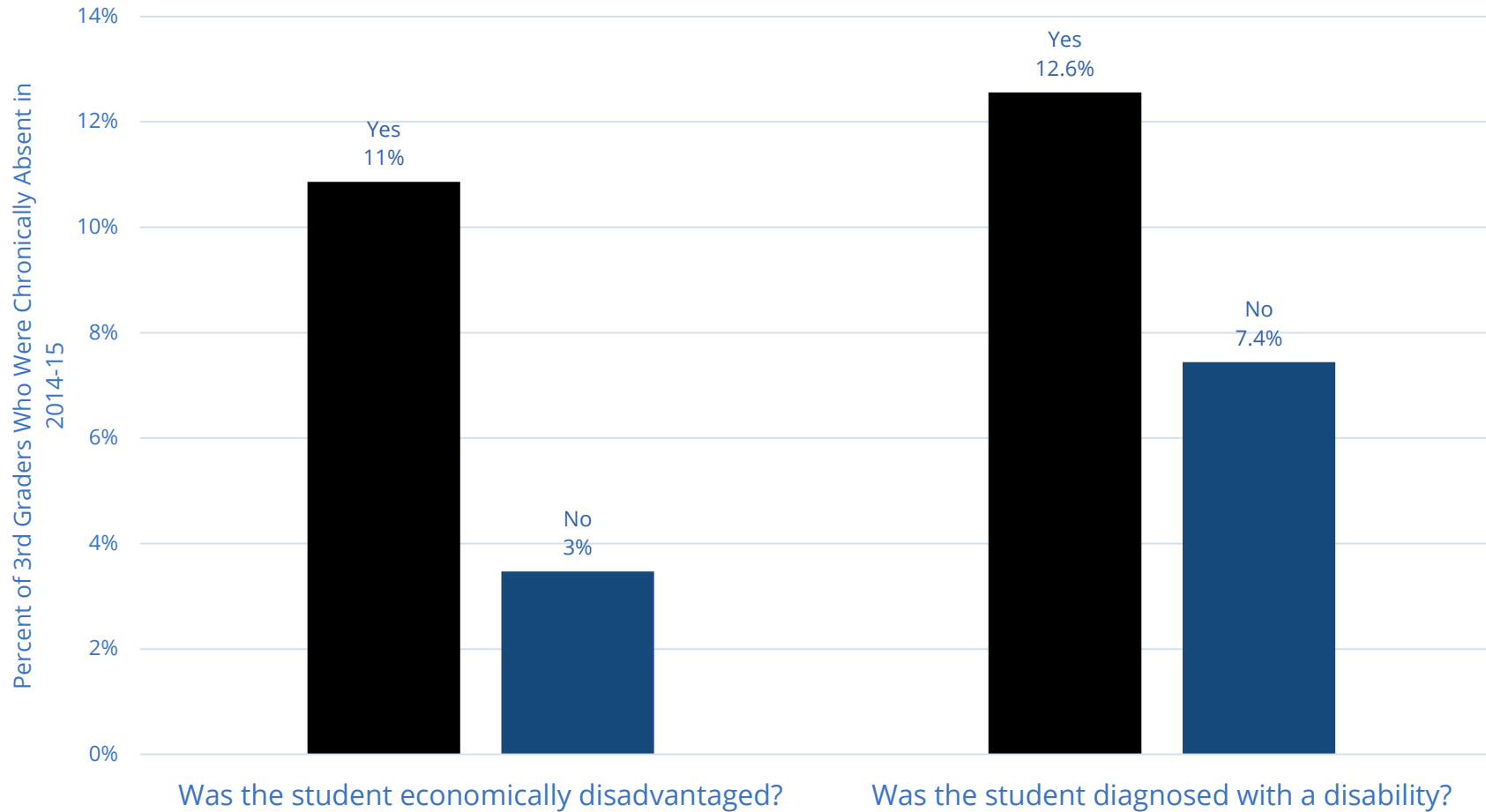
Rates of chronic absenteeism by grade



The majority of chronically absent students have a history of chronic absence



Certain subgroups are more likely to be classified as chronically absent



The logo for the Tennessee Titans, featuring the letters "TN" in a white, serif font centered within a red square. Below the square is a dark blue horizontal bar.

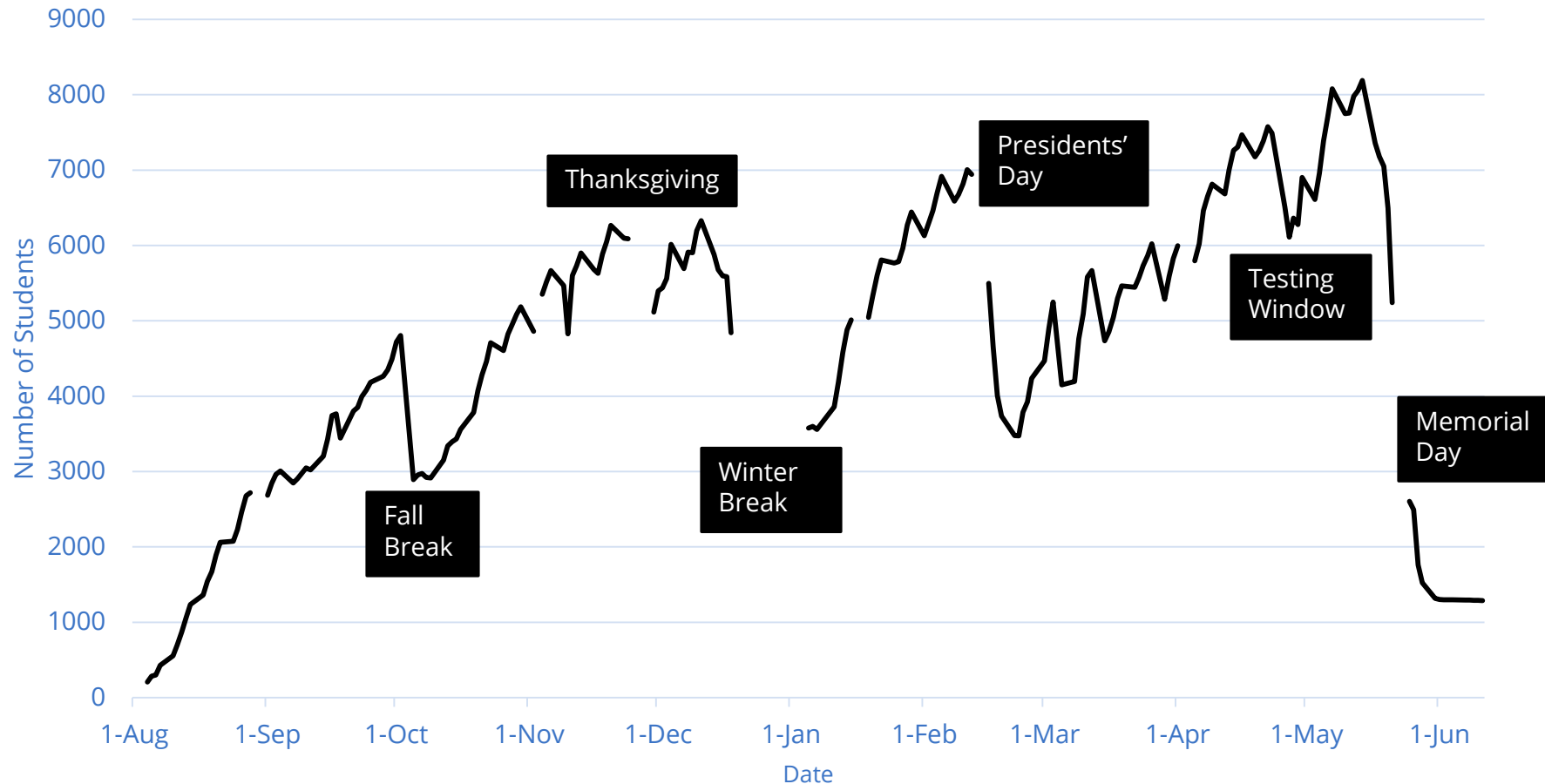
TN

Exclusionary Discipline in Tennessee

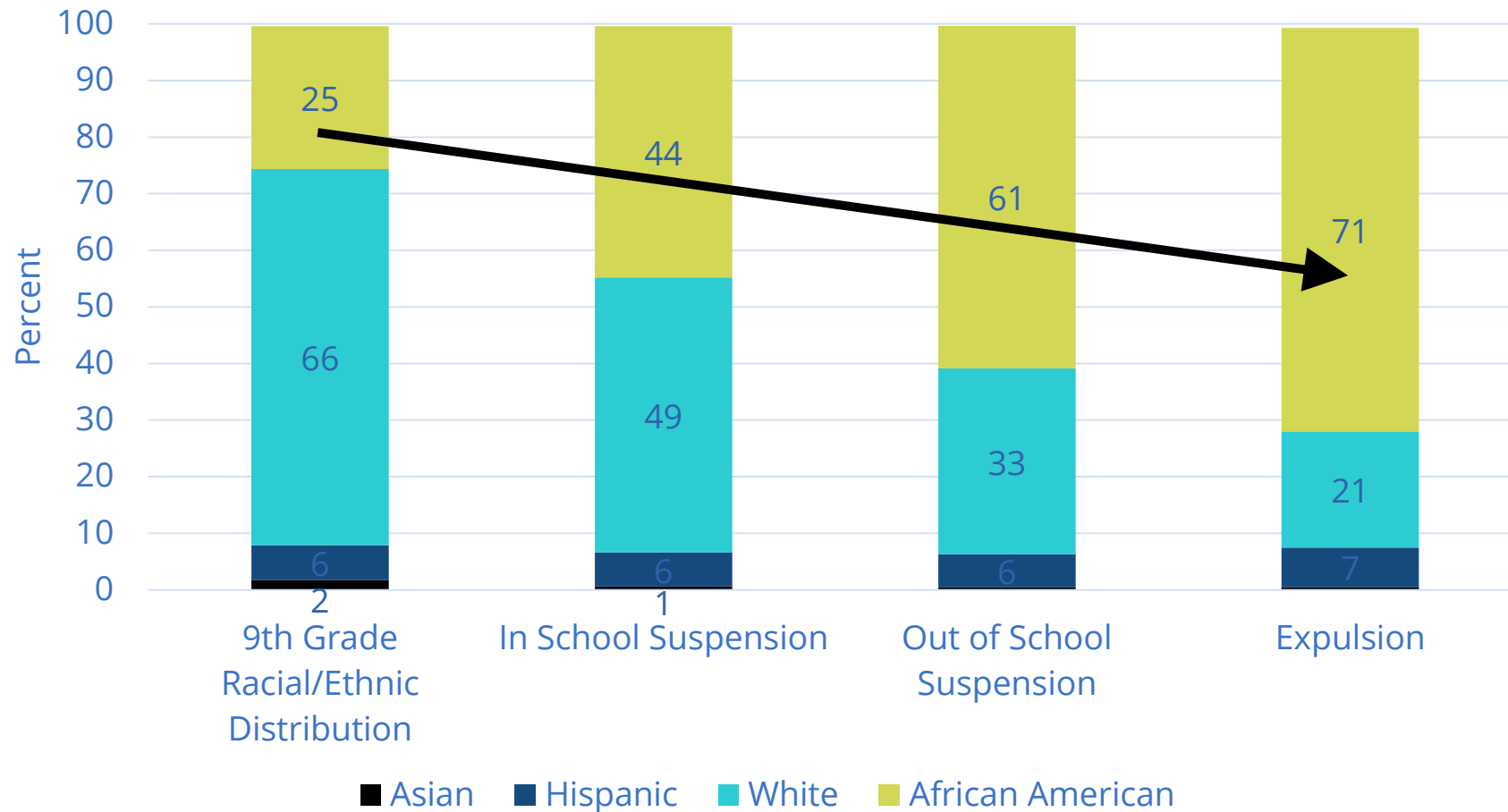
Exclusionary discipline results in a lot of instructional time lost

	Definition	Median days missed per incident
In-School Suspensions	Removal from regular classroom for 10 or fewer days and assignment to in-school program	1 day
Out-of-School Suspensions	Removal from school for 10 or fewer days with no educational services	2 days
Change of Placement	Assignment to another facility or program for more than 10 days but participates in the general curriculum	11 days
Expulsions	Removal from all school district settings for more than 10 days, with total cessation of services	20 days

On an average school day, thousands of students miss due to disciplinary reasons



Across the state, black students make up one quarter of ninth graders, but 71 percent of those expelled

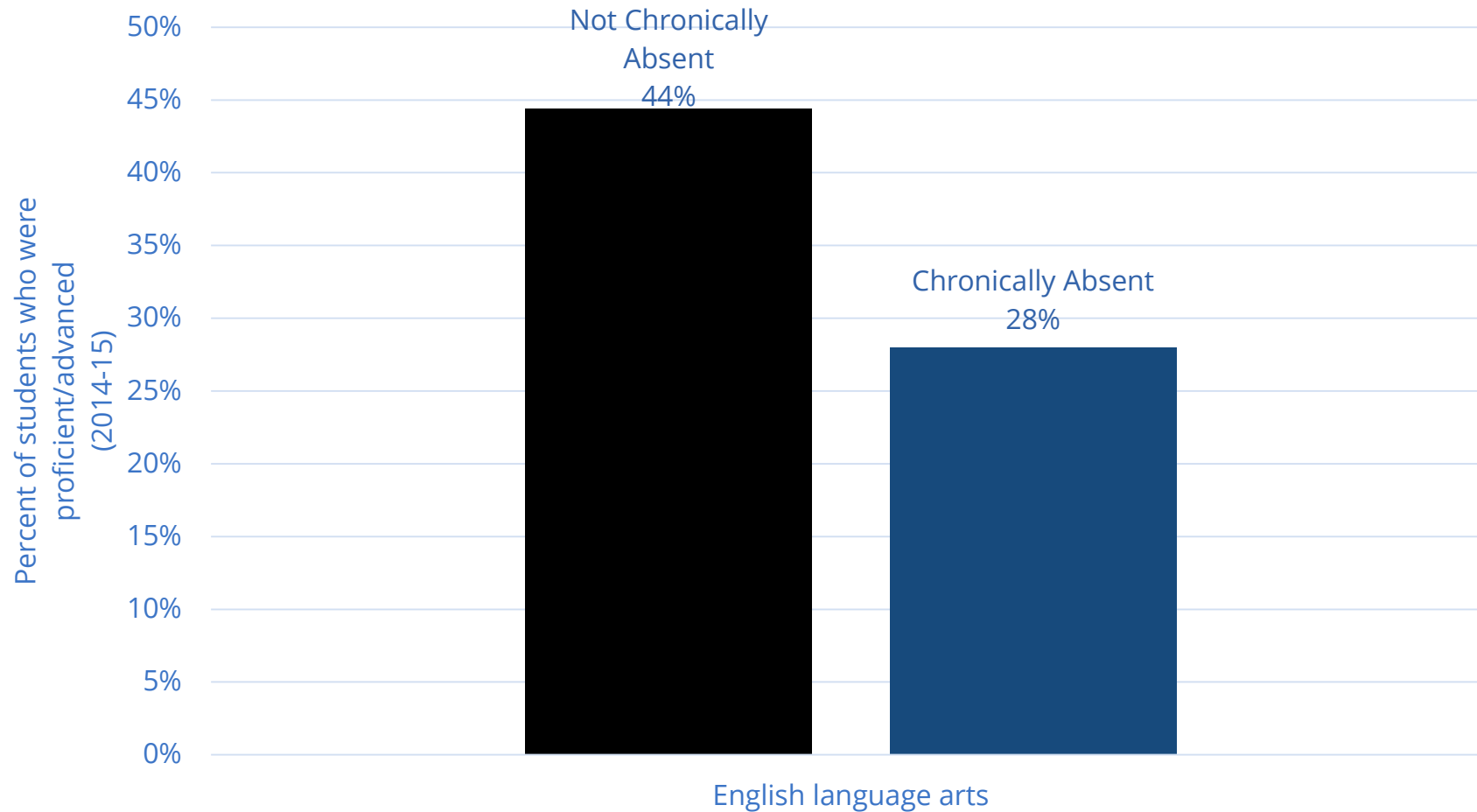


The logo for Tennessee, featuring the letters 'TN' in white, serif font on a red square background. A dark blue horizontal bar is positioned below the red square, and a registered trademark symbol (®) is located at the bottom right corner of the blue bar.

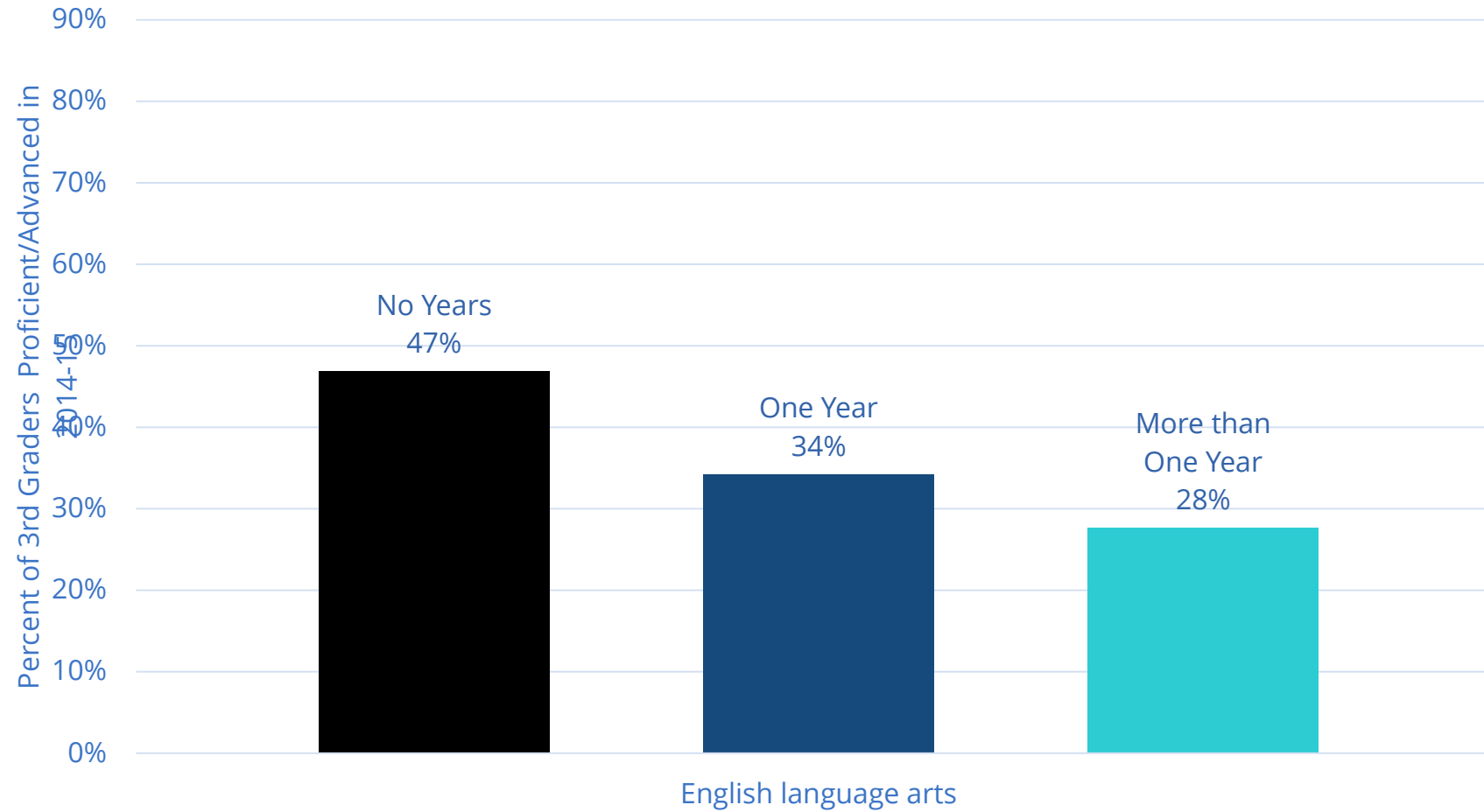
TN

Impact of chronic absenteeism on third grade achievement

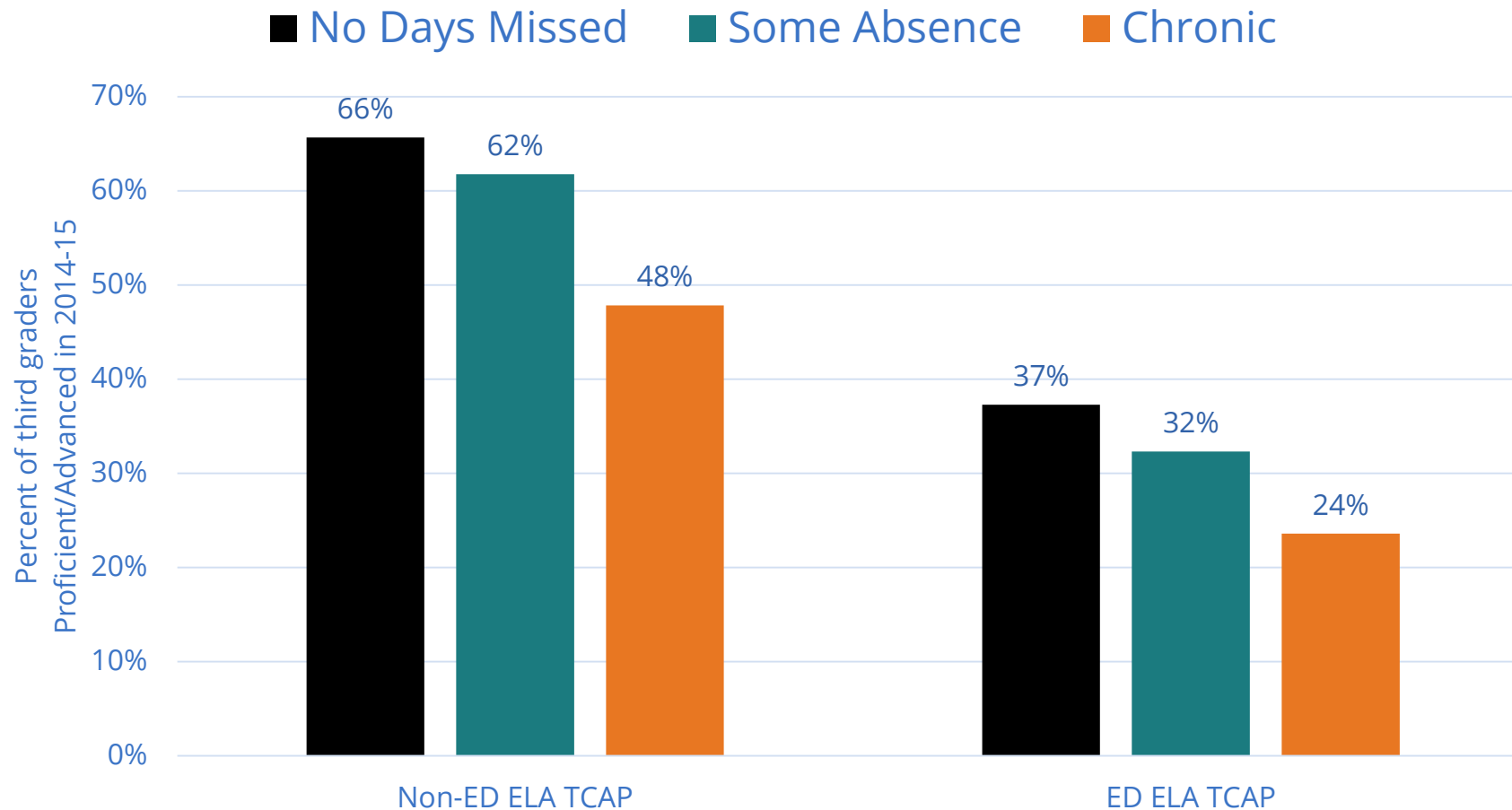
Chronic absenteeism leads to a 15 percent decrease in the likelihood a basic student makes the jump to proficient in ELA.



Chronically absent third graders with a history of chronic absence are least likely to score proficient. The impact compounds over time.



Chronic absenteeism does not drive the achievement gap, but it contributes to its magnitude.





Jonathon Attridge
Research Analyst

Office of Research and Strategy | Division of Data and Research

Jonathon.Attridge@tn.gov

615-571-1946



Districts and schools in Tennessee will exemplify excellence and equity such that all students are equipped with the knowledge and skills to successfully embark on their chosen path in life.

Excellence | Optimism | Judgment | Courage | Teamwork