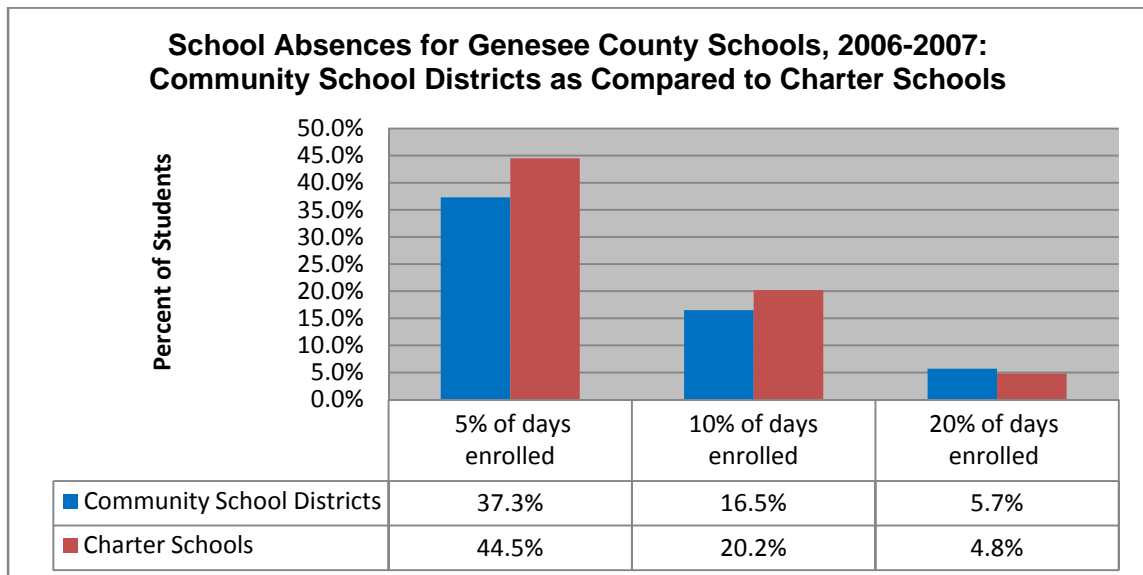
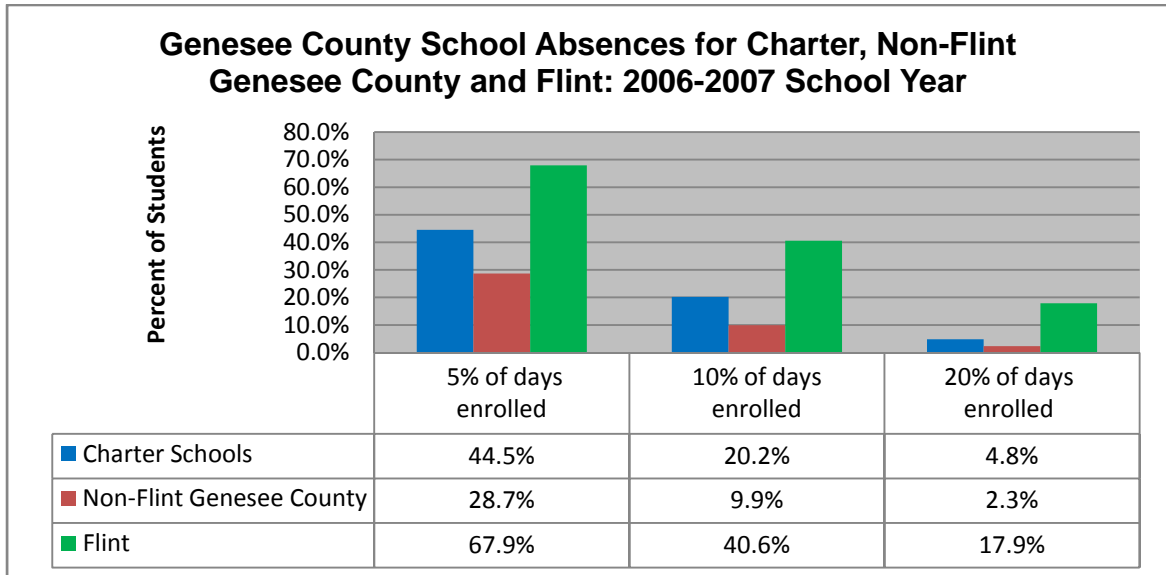




Mission: To improve the quality of life for children and families in Genesee County through assessment, awareness, advocacy and action.

Fact Sheet 3.3 School Attendance

School attendance is one of the things that we can measure that is most closely associated with school success or failure. It should be borne in mind, however, that the attendance rate of an individual student may be affected by a variety of factors. For example, the effects of a pattern of truancy are cumulative. If a child falls behind his classmates due to nonattendance, he may be more likely to further avoid school, which will lead to him falling further and further behind.



Continued...

Fact Sheet 3.3: School Attendance continued...

Genesee County has just begun to routinely collect truancy statistics for all schools in the county. In subsequent years, it may become possible to track changes in school attendance patterns, but some things are evident right now:

- A much greater proportion of students have good attendance at Genesee County community schools than at charter schools.
- Moderate levels of truancy are a greater problem at charter schools than in Genesee County community schools
- Truancy is a much greater problem in the Flint Community Schools than in non-Flint community schools or in charter schools.

BEYOND THE NUMBERS

As stated in the preceding text, a child may avoid school increasingly if he/she falls behind and feels unable to catch up. A parent may then elect to enroll a child in a charter school instead of the local community school. The child's feelings about school and attendance pattern have already been established, so the child enters the charter school with a pattern of frequent absences.

A community school is located in a child's neighborhood. Transportation to/from school is less often a problem. It may be easier for parents to communicate and interact with school staff regarding concerns, successes, etc., and to be involved in school activities. All of these factors relate positively to school attendance for children.

EXAMPLES OF INTERVENTION EFFORTS

Communication – frequent, positive, and informative – may be the best tool we have to help children become successful in school and to help parents become comfortable and satisfied with the school of their choice.

- **Attendance Court** - Began in 2004 as a result of the Genesee County Attendance Task Force. It is a collaborative between the Court and the United Way, providing casework services from the Youth Projects Division to youth petitioned to court for truancy, educational neglect and/or school incorrigibility. Please see Fact Sheet 5-2 Juvenile Offenses for more information on truancy.

Data Source: Genesee Intermediate School District; SRSD EOY 2007 - Summary of Student Absences by Building/District and private communications.

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