# Governor McKee to Present at Every Day Counts Summit in Washington, D.C. on Chronic Absenteeism



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Governor Dan McKee's initiatives to improve student attendance in Rhode Island schools will be highlighted at the White House Every Day Counts Summit in Washington, D.C. today. The event, which aims to address the issue of chronic absenteeism, will host McKee alongside Education Commissioner Angélica Infante-Green. Connecticut Governor Ned Lamont and other state leaders will also present their strategies.

Chronic absenteeism, defined as students missing at least 10 percent of school days annually, has worsened nationwide since the COVID-19 pandemic. In Rhode Island, the absenteeism rate increased to 28.9 percent last school year from 18.7 percent in 2017-2018.

The Biden administration plans to introduce several initiatives to address this issue, including a $250 million federal grant aimed at developing solutions to reduce absenteeism and enhance student engagement.

Governor McKee's strategy in Rhode Island includes public relations campaigns and targeted interventions, such as sending reminders to parents. According to McKee, 93 percent of Rhode Island schools report fewer students on track to become chronically absent compared to the previous year. However, challenges remain, with some schools still experiencing high rates of absenteeism.

The Every Day Counts Summit begins at 9:45 a.m. and can be viewed online. For more information on Rhode Island's efforts and related local news, subscribe to the Rhode Map newsletter.

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