



The Tallahassee-Leon County  
21<sup>st</sup> Century Council  
*Quality of Life / Sustainability*  
**COMMUNITY INDICATOR**

**Quality of Life / Sustainability Segment:**  
ECONOMIC PROGRESS PROFITS PROSPERITY  
SOCIAL **PEOPLE**  
ENVIRONMENTAL PLANET PLACE  
*governance ethics justice spirituality peace*  
**Title: Students Absent 21+ Days**

**Students Absent 21+ Days**

**Indicator:**

The percentage of Leon County middle and high school students from the total enrollment who were absent 21 or more days during the school year; plus overall absentee rates for Leon County and Florida.

**Commentary:**

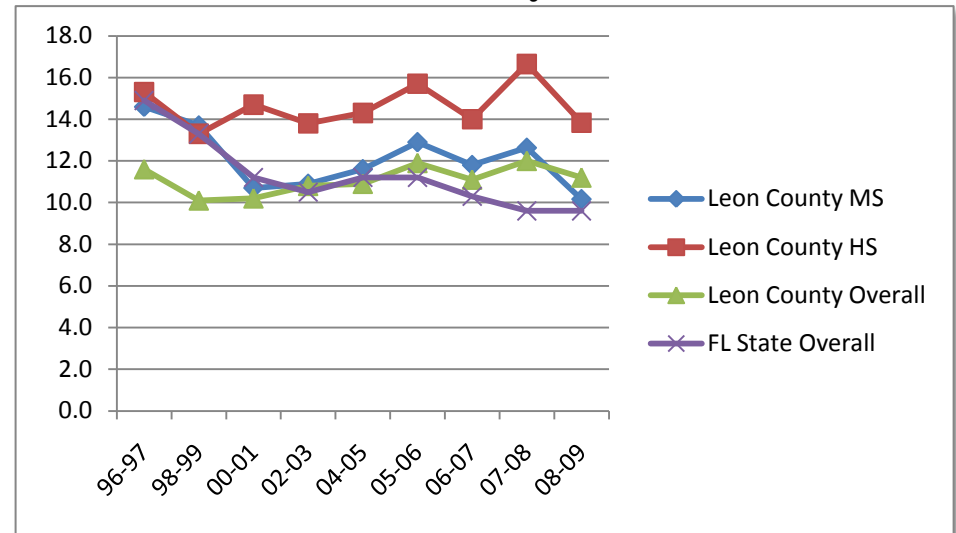
The percentage of students absent 21 or more days during the school year is generally larger among high school (HS) than middle school (MS) students. Leon County high school absenteeism fluctuates slightly year to year but overall has remained fairly constant at an average of 14.4%. Leon County middle school absenteeism averaged 10.8% between 2000 and 2003, peaked in 2005-06, but has since dropped dramatically to an all time low of 10.2% in 2008-09. While the average percentage for all Florida students (all grade levels) has been in decline since 1996, absenteeism rose in Leon County from 2000-08 and overall has been higher than state rates since 2005.

**Source(s):**

Florida Department of Education (DOE), Florida School Indicators Reports (FSIRs), <http://www.fldoe.org/eias/eiaspubs/fsir.asp>

*Note: Florida School Indicators Reports (FSIRs) for school, district and state data are published by Florida DOE each year. Archive data varies somewhat from more recent data, requiring re-organization and collation interventions. Regular fact checking is recommended.*

**Chart 1: Leon County and Florida % Absent**



**Table 1: Leon County and Florida % Absent**

	96-97	98-99	00-01	02-03	04-05	05-06	06-07	07-08	08-09
Leon County MS	14.6	13.7	10.7	10.9	11.6	12.9	11.8	12.6	10.2
Leon County HS	15.3	13.3	14.7	13.8	14.3	15.7	14.0	16.7	13.8
<b>Leon County Overall</b>	11.6	10.1	10.2	10.8	10.9	11.9	11.1	12.0	11.2
<b>FL State Overall</b>	14.9	13.3	11.2	10.5	11.2	11.3	10.3	9.6	9.6