



Tackling Attendance

A Closer Look at Student Attendance in School X

September 2010

“At the core of school improvement and education reform is an assumption so widely understood that it is rarely invoked: Students have to be present and engaged in order to learn.”

– *“Present, Engaged and Accounted For,”*
September 2008

Why focus on attendance?

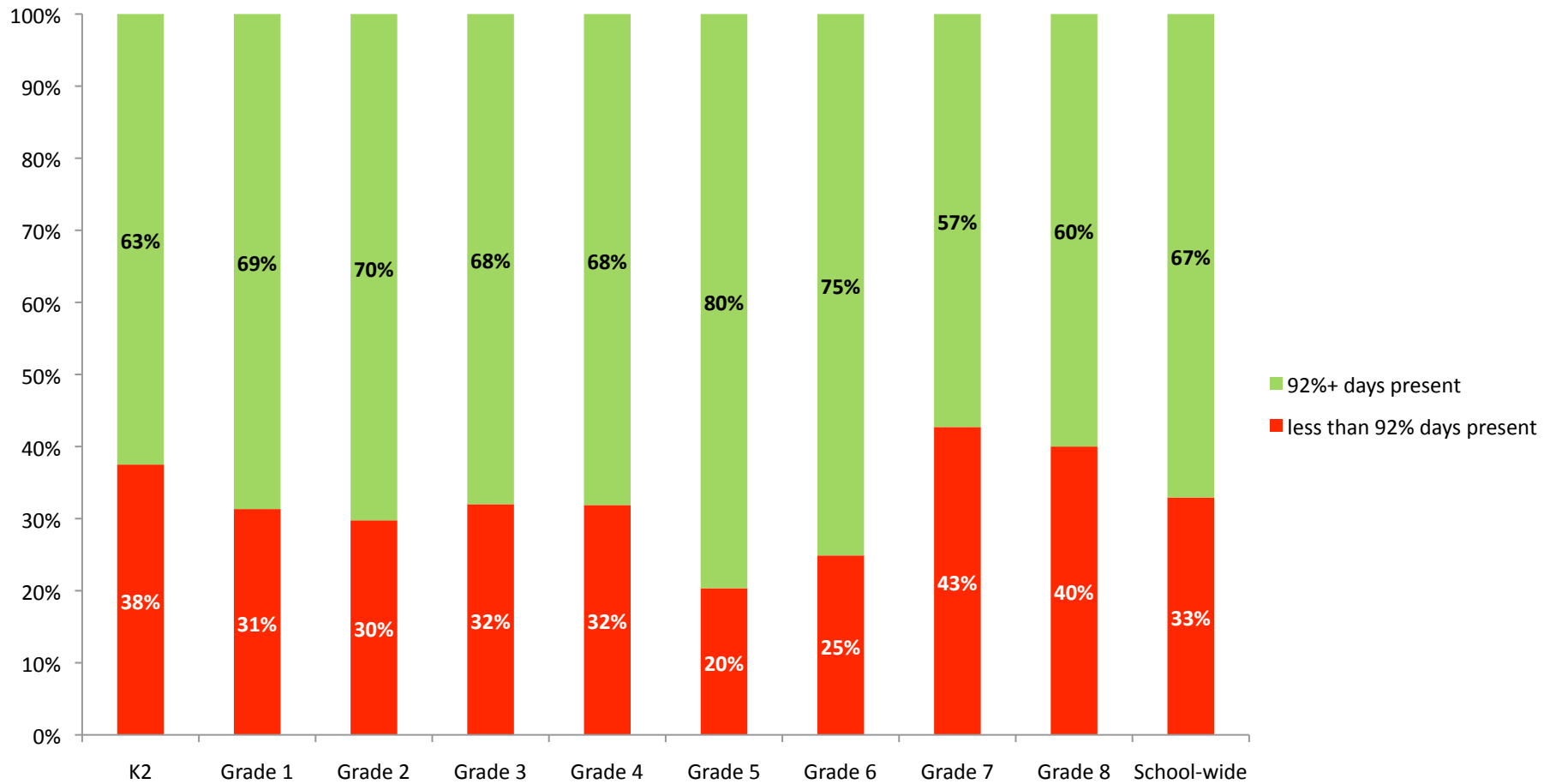
Because research shows it's critical for success ...

- Chronic attendance in Kindergarten predicts the lowest levels of achievement at the end of 5th grade.
- By 6th grade, missing 20% is a critical warning sign of school drop out.
- By 9th grade, missing 20% of school is a better predictor of drop out than 8th grade test scores.
- Bottom line: Children can't learn if they aren't present in school.

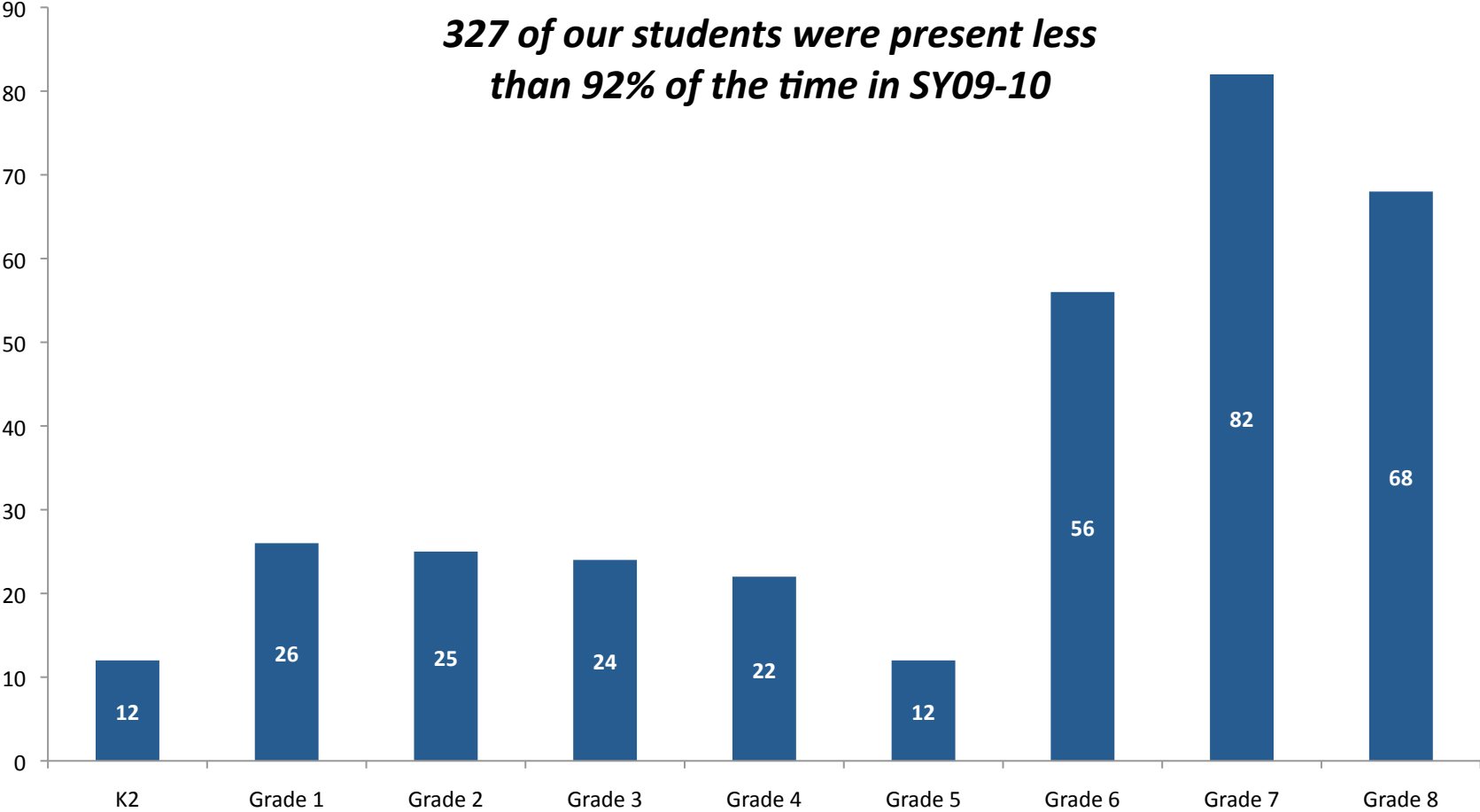
... And we can do something about it:

- We can influence attendance and poor attendance can be prevented.

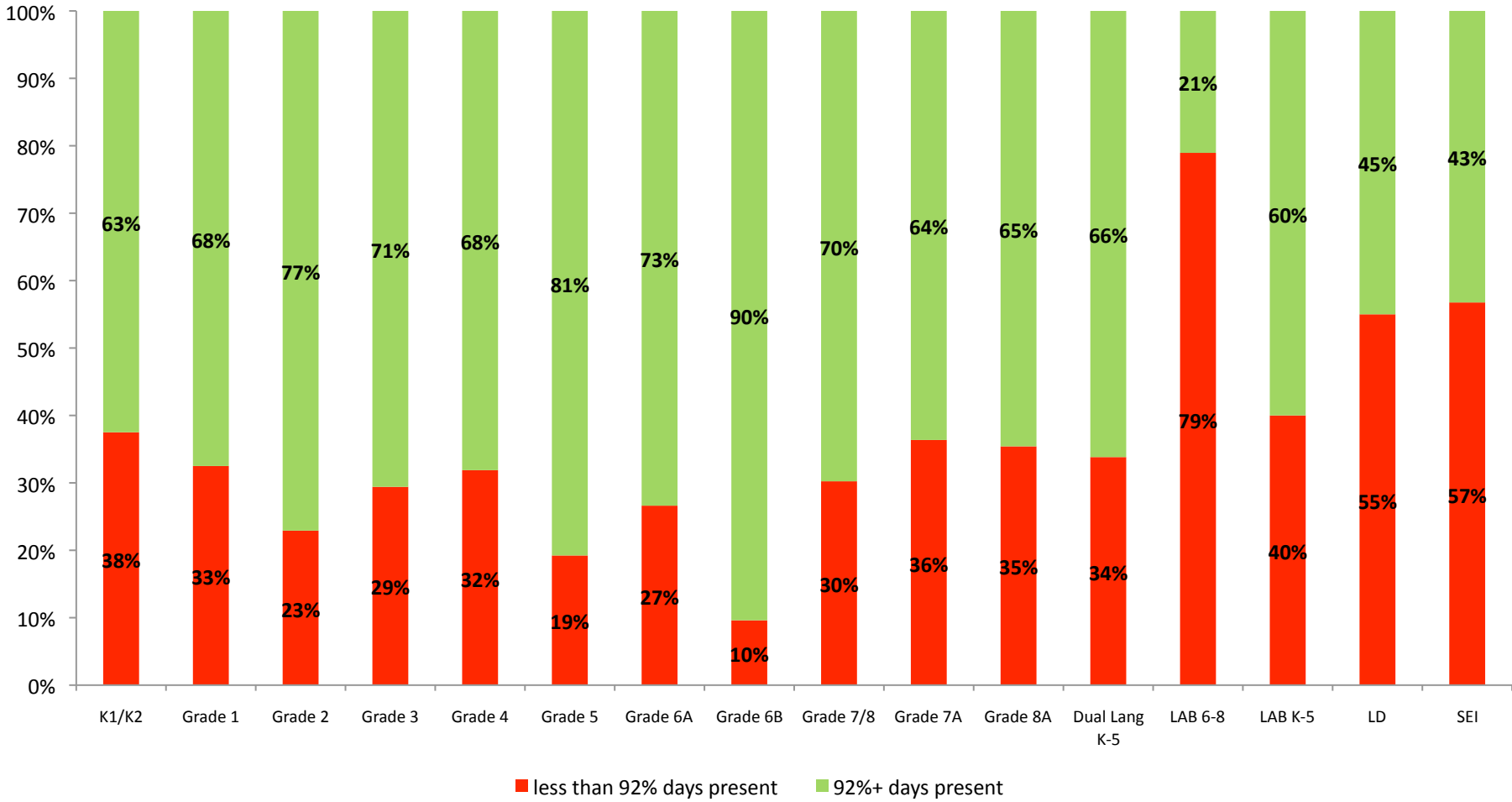
How do attendance rates vary by grade level?



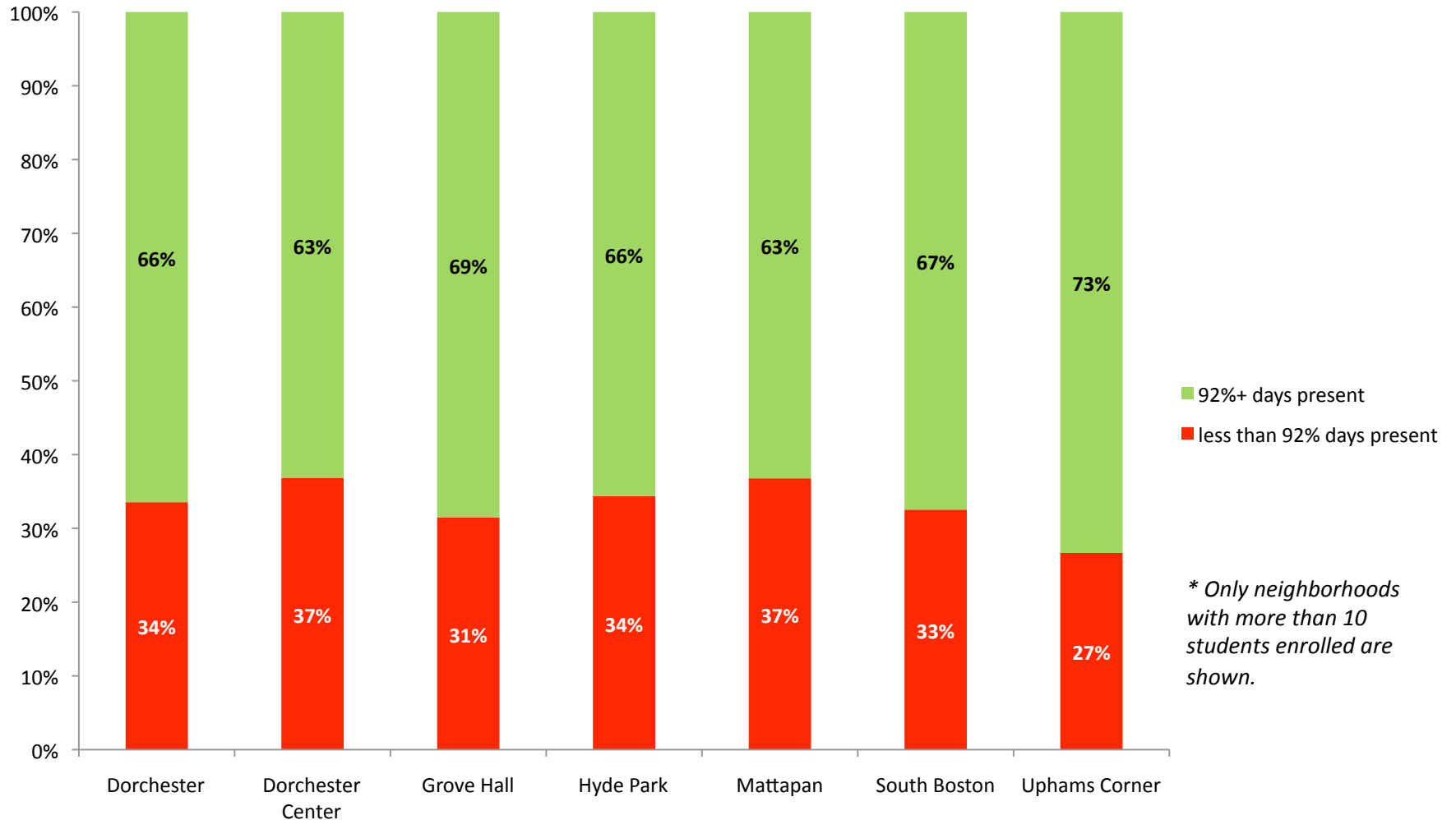
How many students attended school less than 92% of total days?



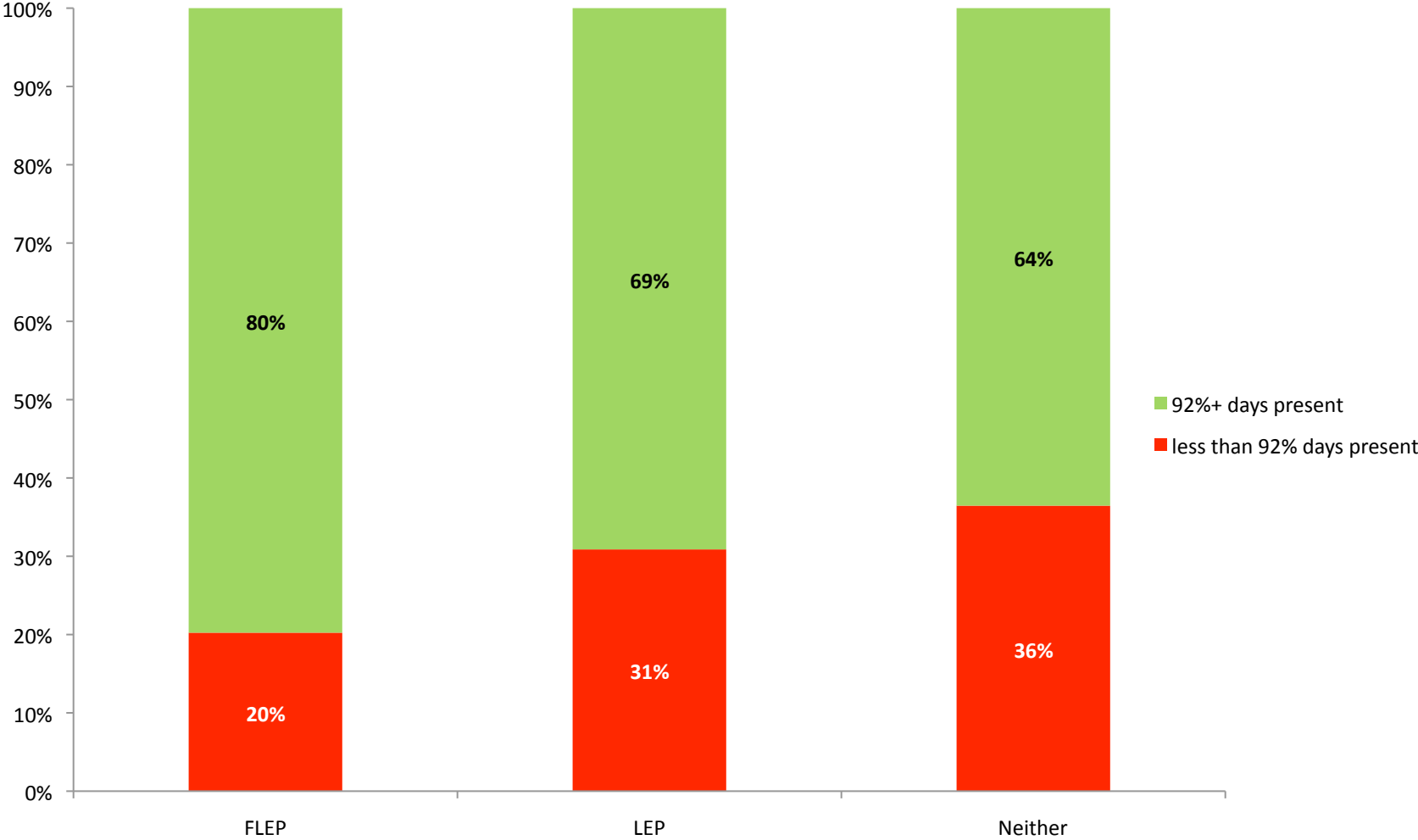
How do attendance rates vary by current team configurations?



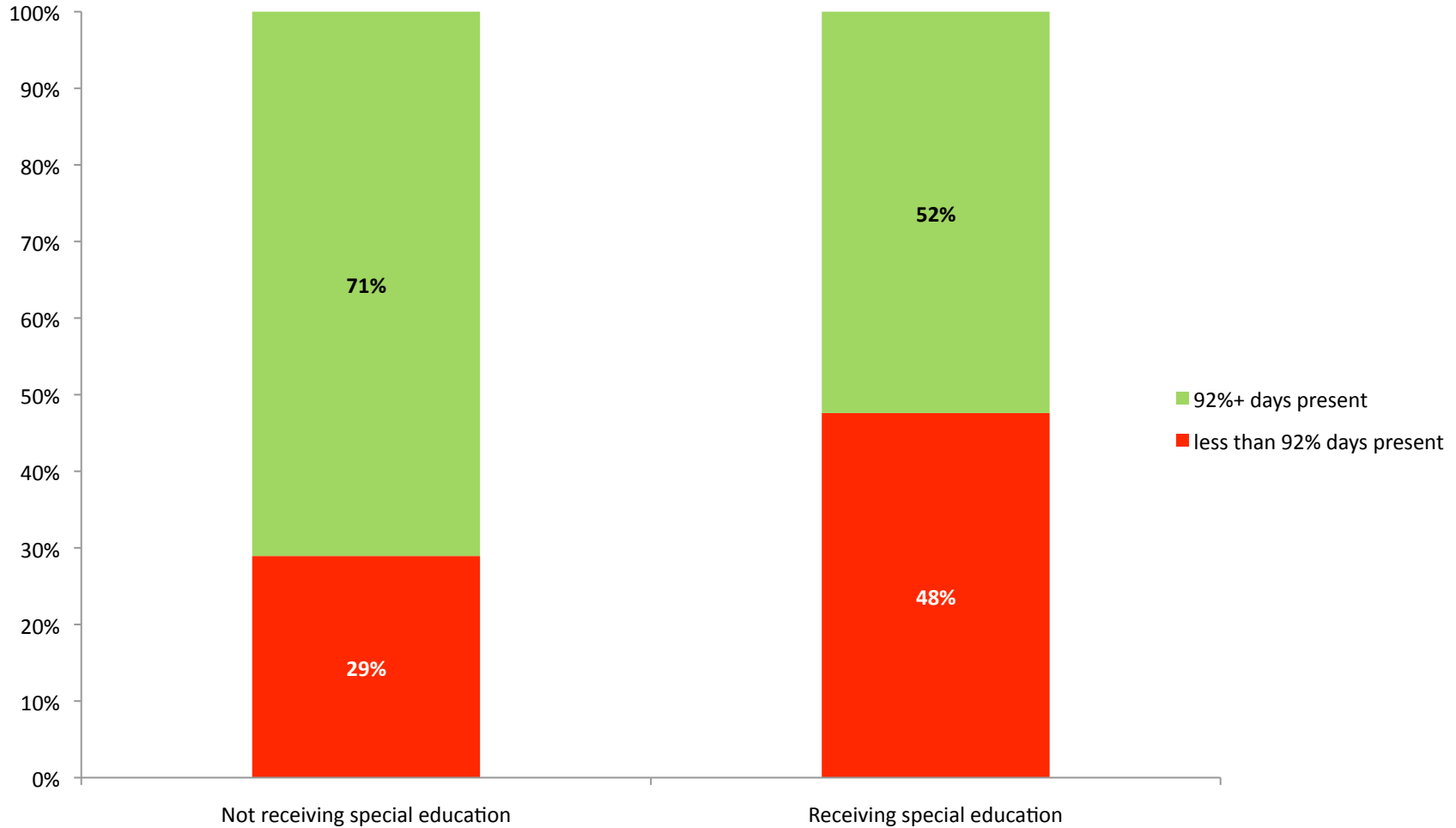
How do attendance rates vary by neighborhood of residence*?



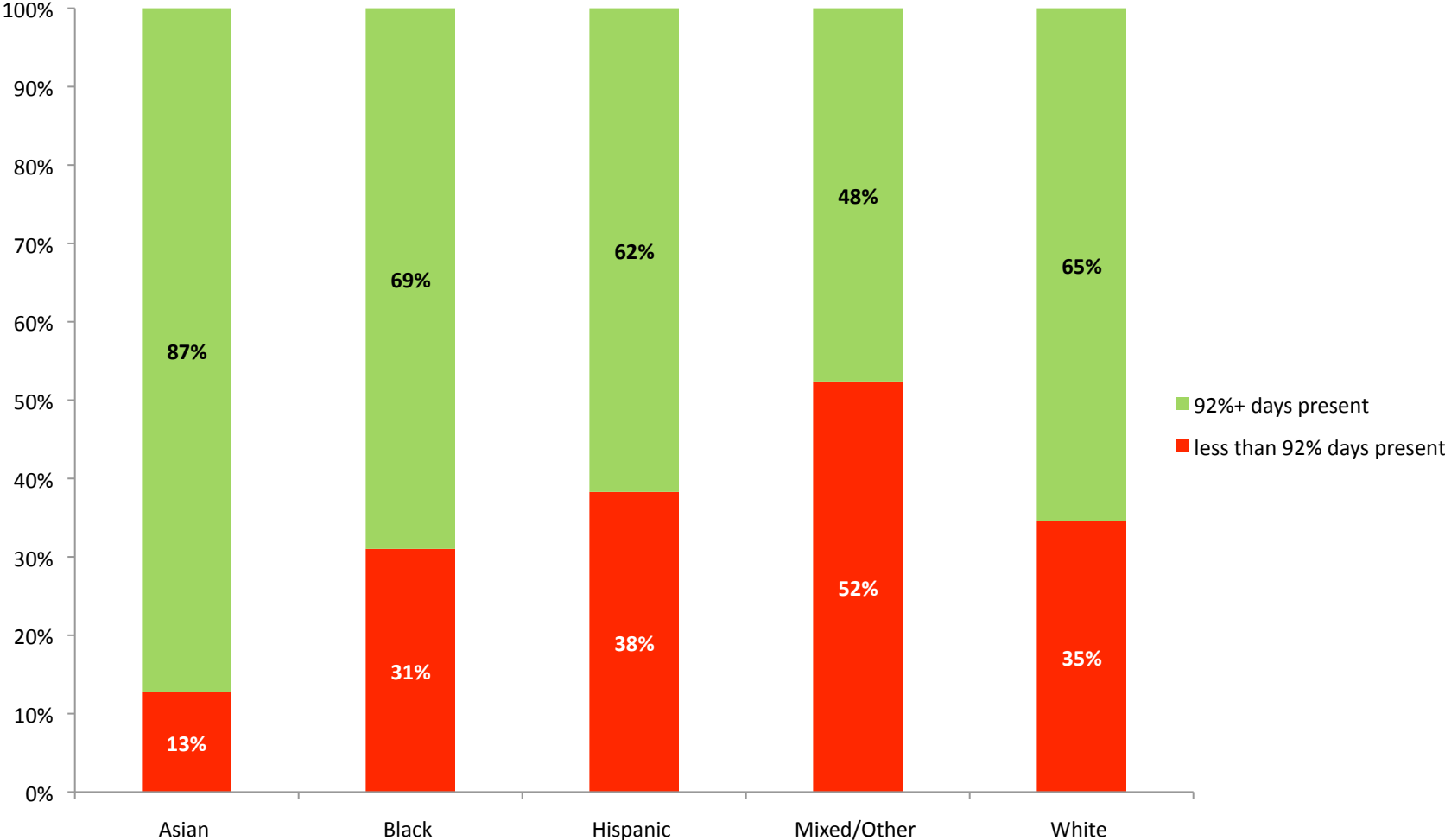
How do attendance rates vary by English proficiency status?



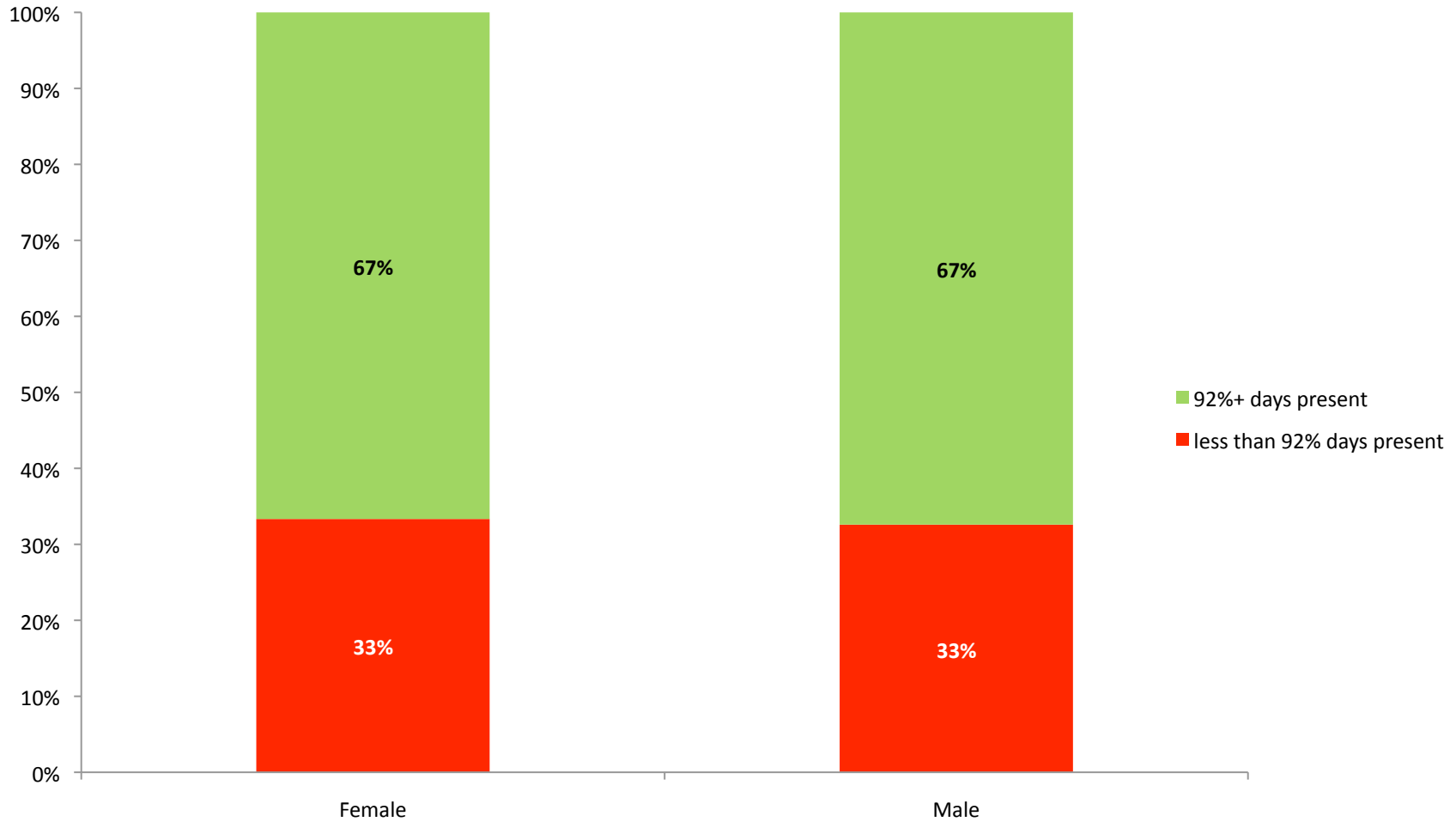
How do attendance rates vary by special education status?



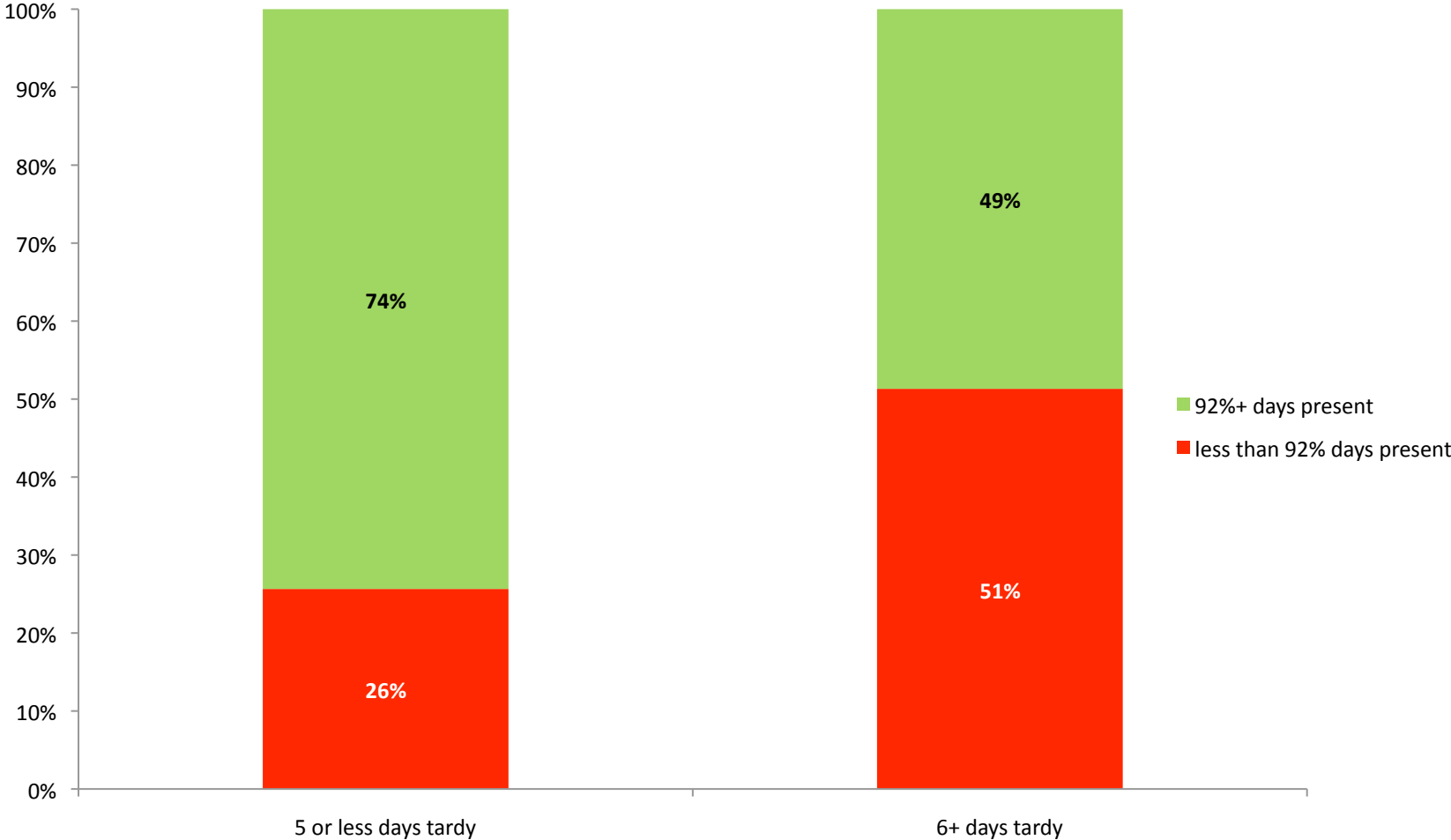
How do attendance rates vary by race/ethnicity?



How do attendance rates vary by gender?

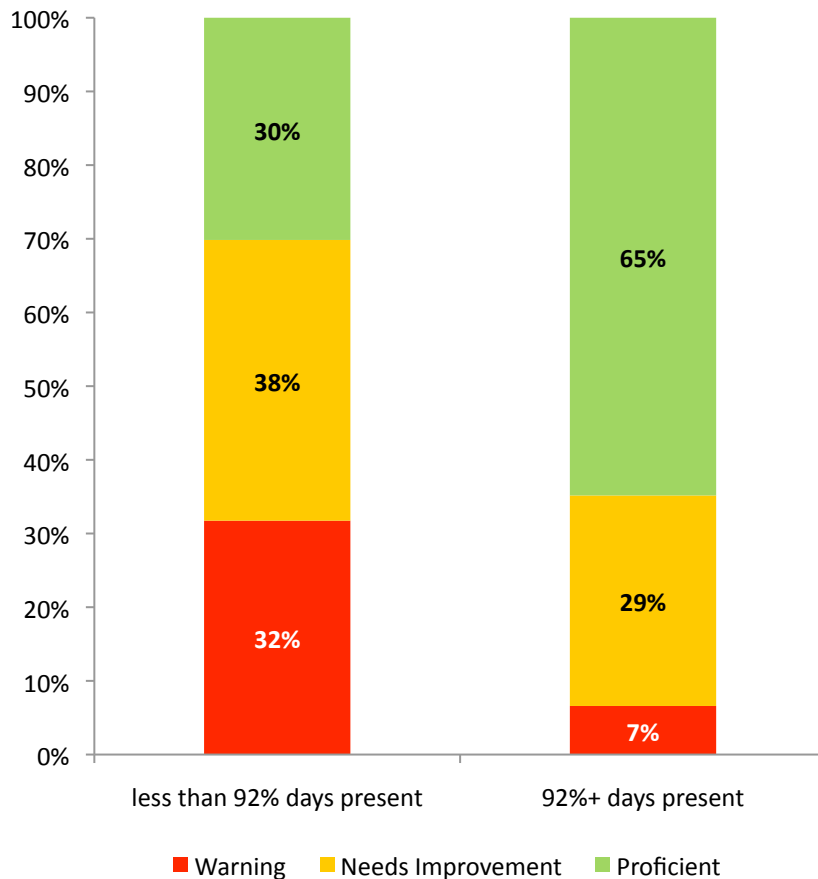


How do attendance rates vary by tardiness levels?

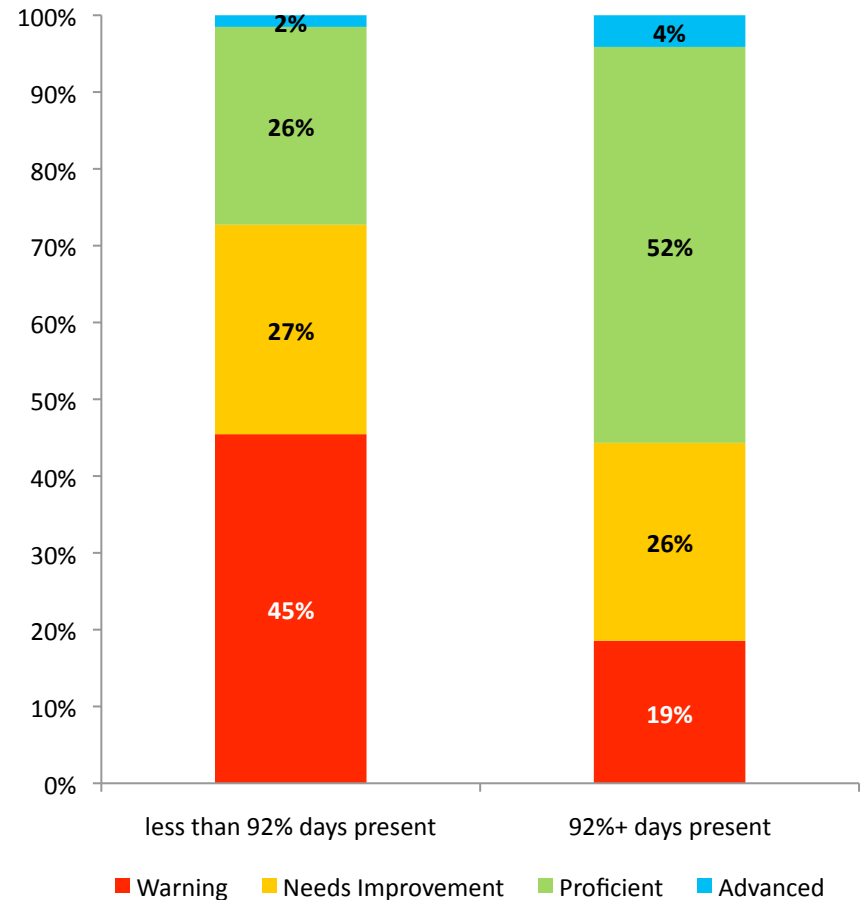


How does MCAS performance vary by attendance rates?

Rising 8th graders' ELA performance

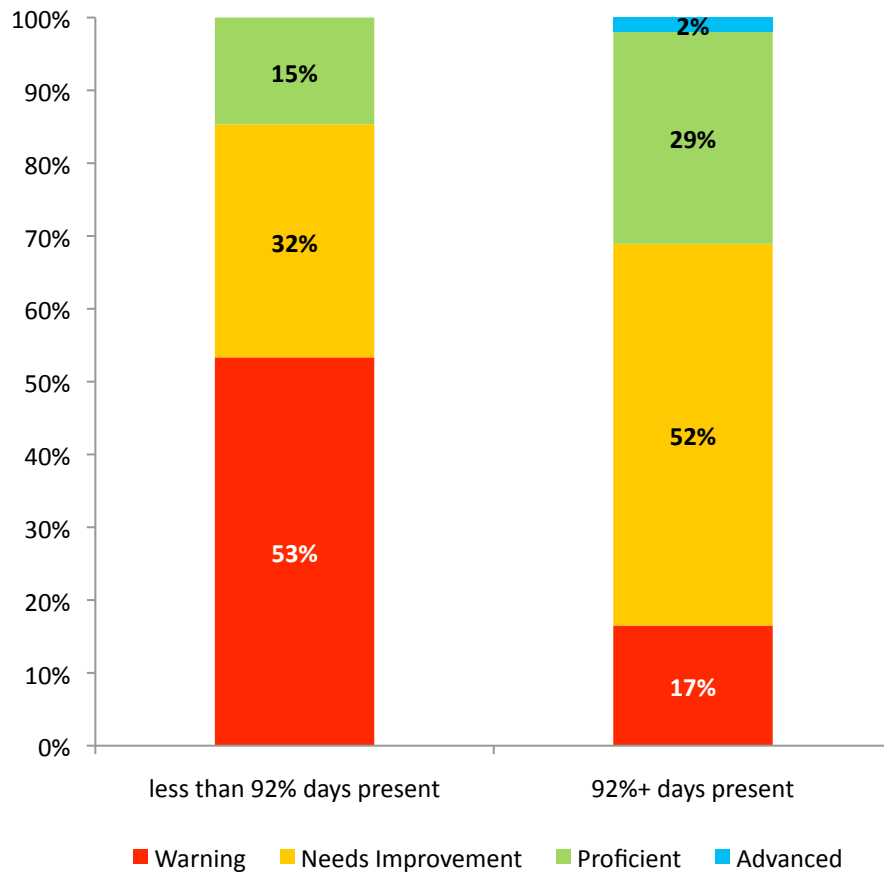


Rising 8th graders' Math performance

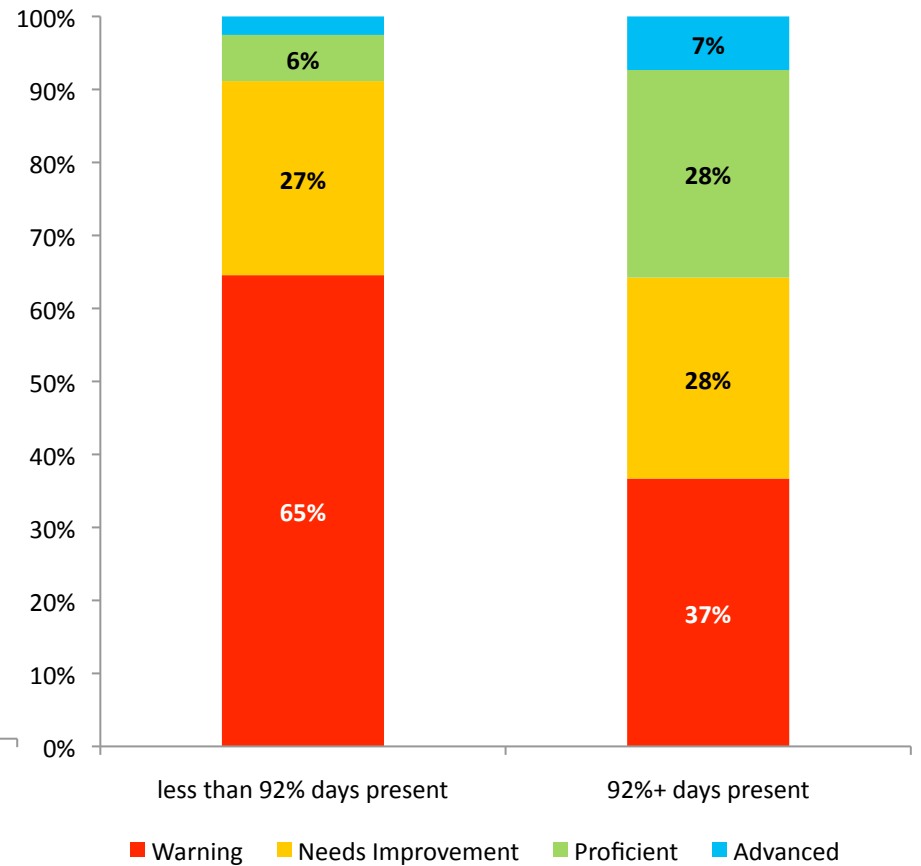


How does MCAS performance vary by attendance rates?

Rising 7th graders' ELA performance

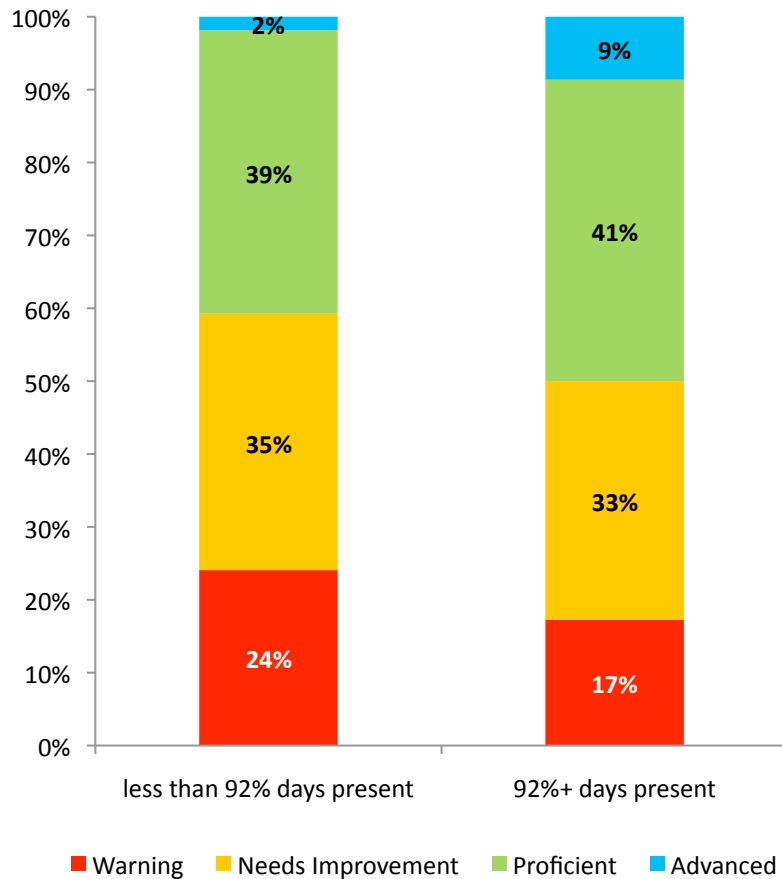


Rising 7th graders' Math performance

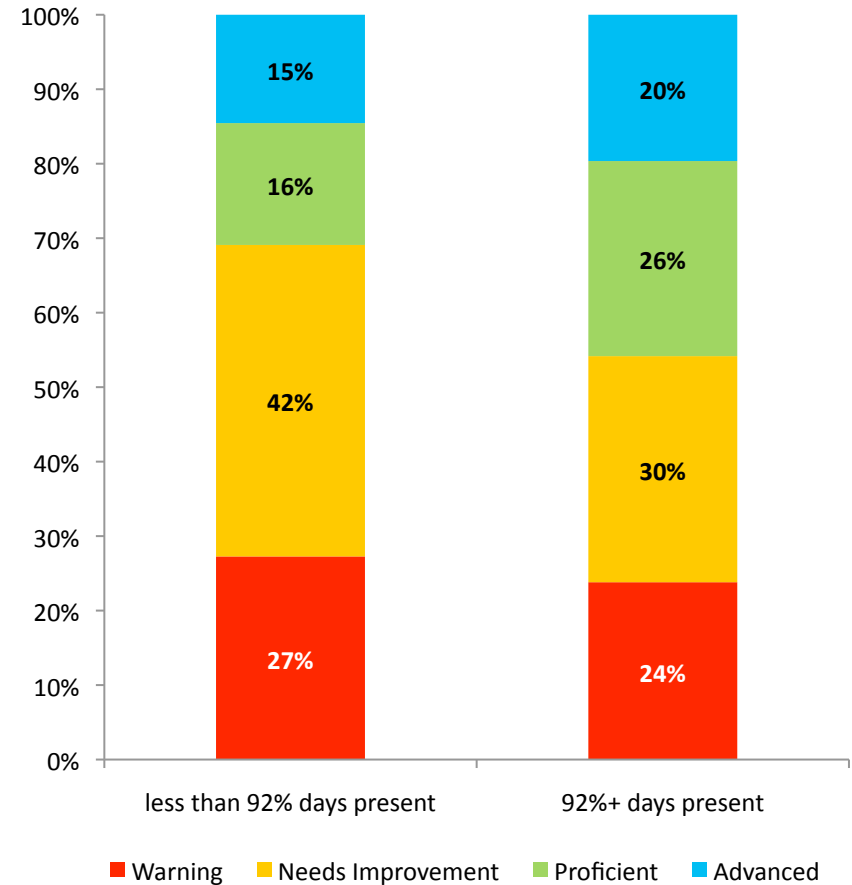


How does MCAS performance vary by attendance rates?

Rising 6th graders' ELA performance

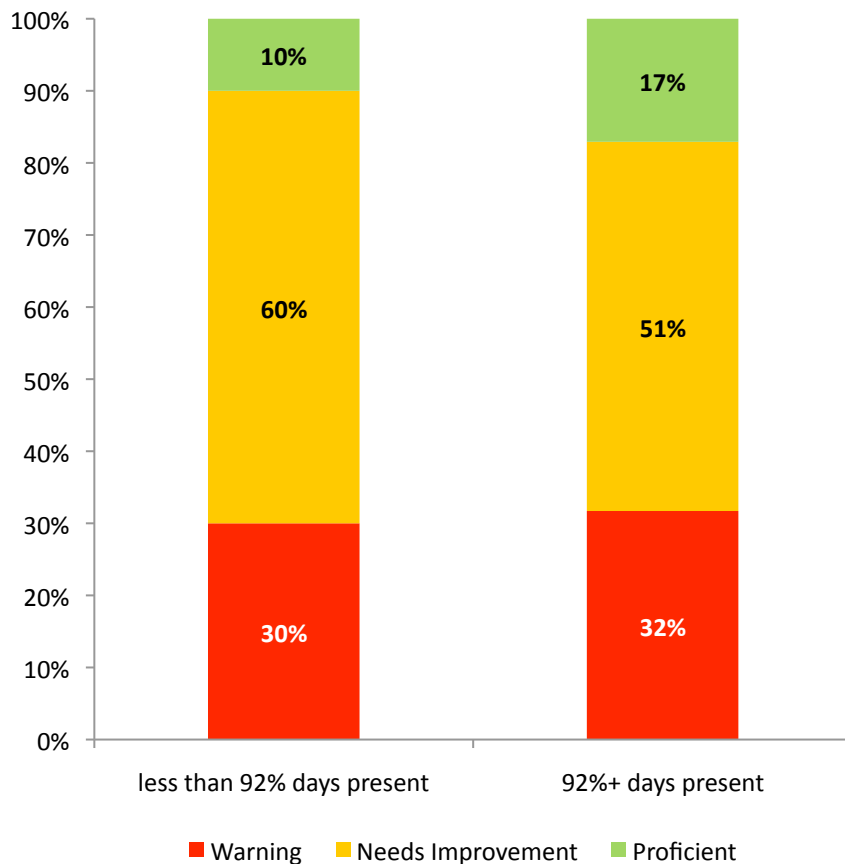


Rising 6th graders' Math performance

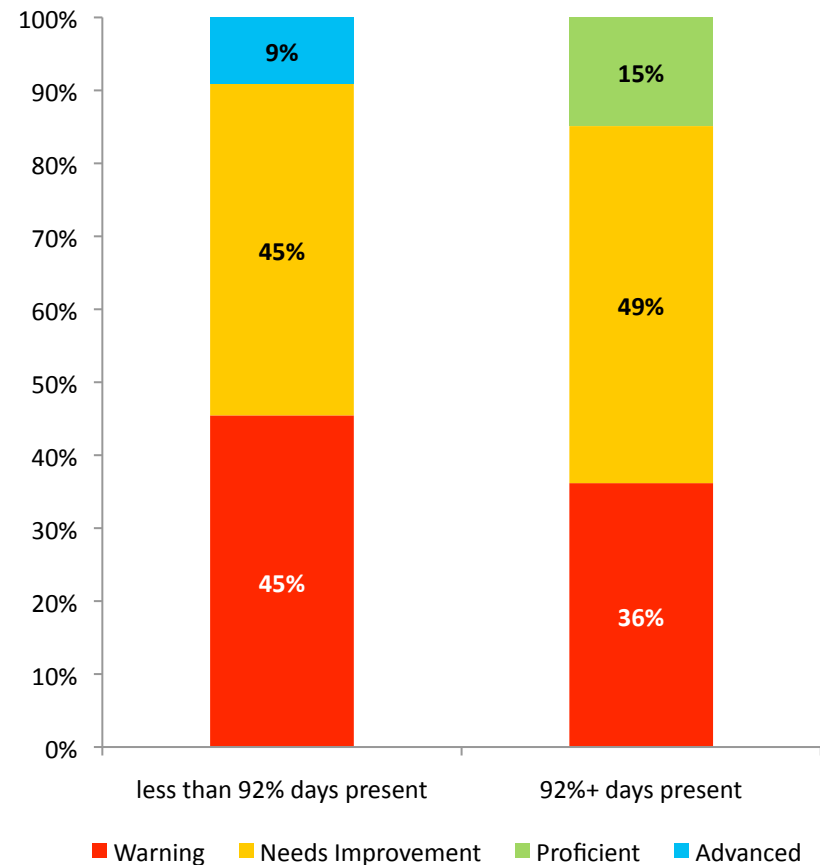


How does MCAS performance vary by attendance rates?

Rising 5th graders' ELA performance

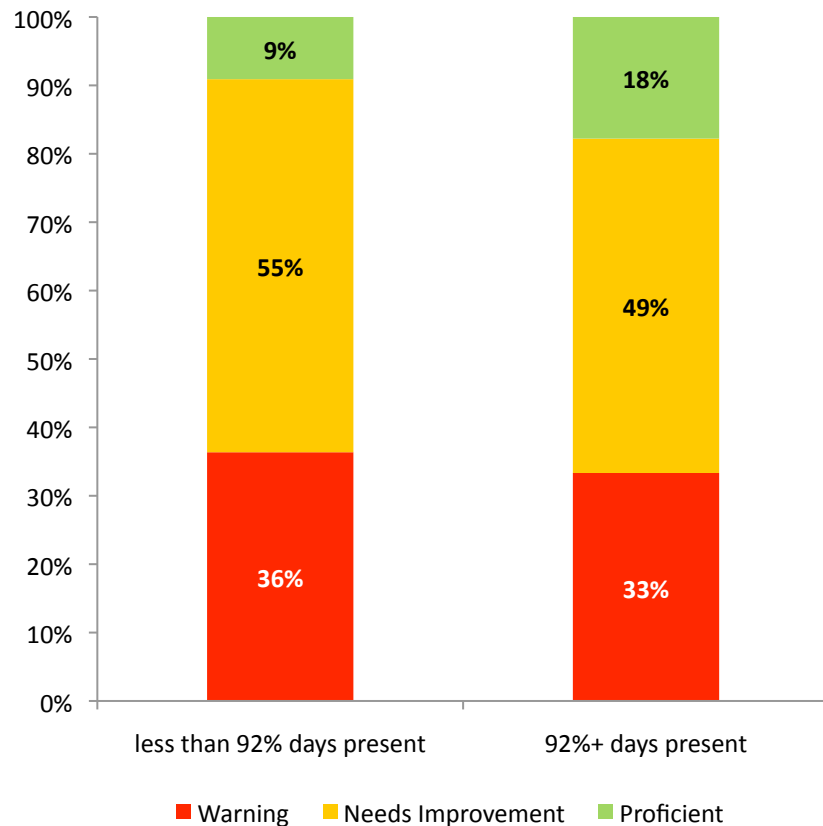


Rising 5th graders' Math performance

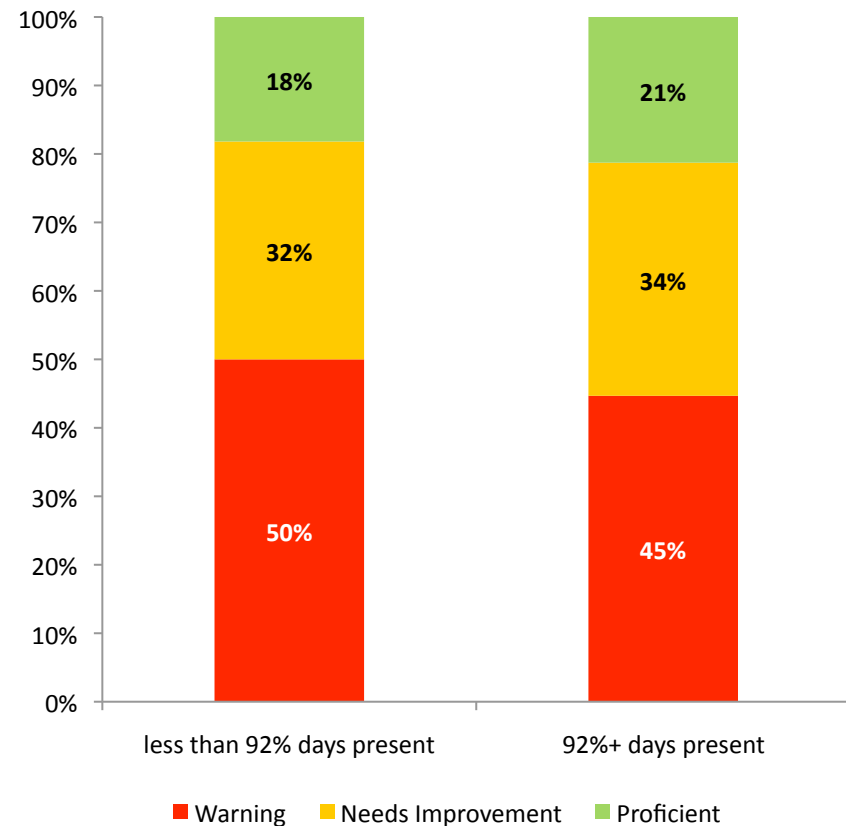


How does MCAS performance vary by attendance rates?

Rising 4th graders' ELA performance

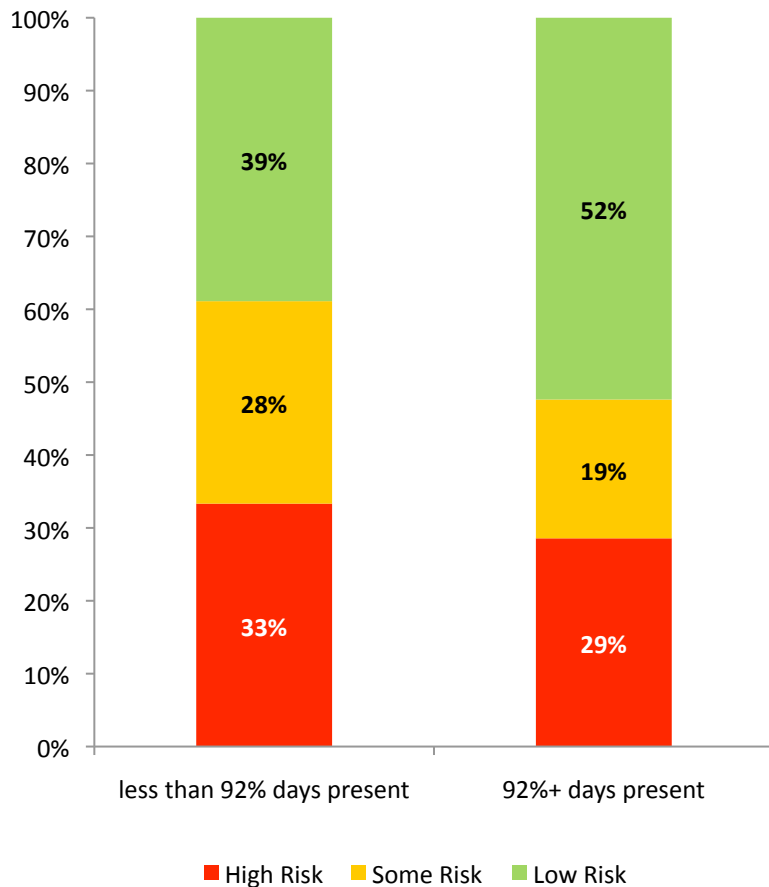


Rising 4th graders' Math performance

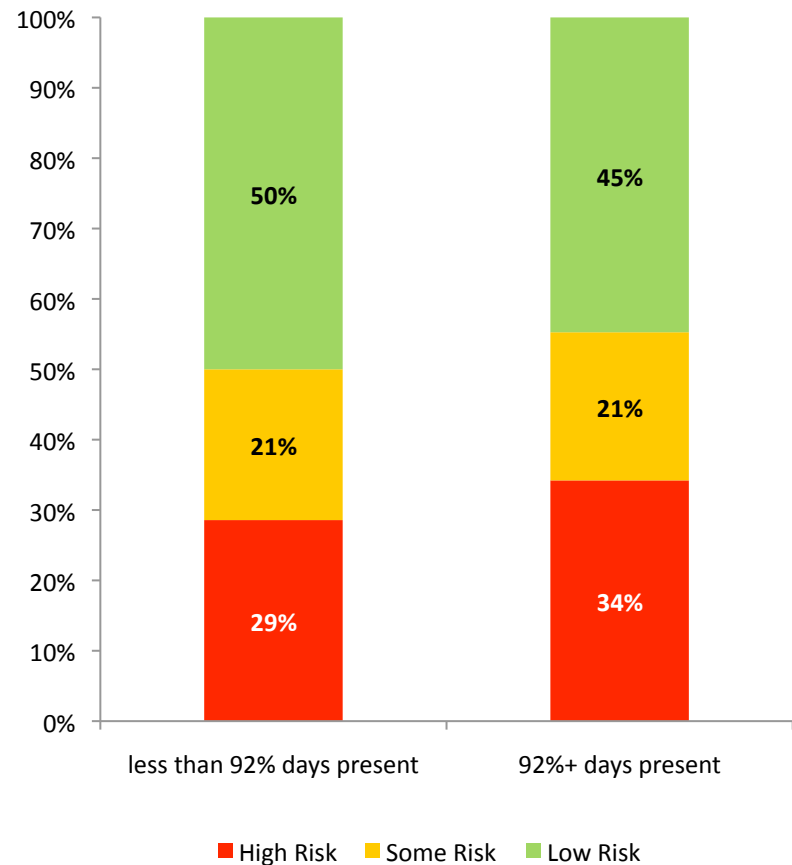


How do Oral Reading Fluency (ORF) risk levels vary by attendance rates?

Rising 3rd graders' end-of-year ORF risk levels



Rising 2nd graders' end-of-year ORF risk levels



School-wide strategies for improving attendance

- Reach out to frequently absent students to find out why they are missing school and what would help them attend more regularly.
- Implement a system of incentives and reward for good/improved attendance.
 - Create competition among homerooms (i.e. monthly trophy circulates)
 - Publicly recognize students (i.e. publicly post names of students with good attendance, celebrate with pizza party or other special event).
- Educate parents and students about importance of attendance.
- Partner with community agencies that can reach out and offer resources to help chronically absent students and their families.
- Develop individual learning plans for high-risk students exhibiting poor attendance.
- Regularly review data to identify problematic and positive attendance patterns by grade, population of students, and classroom.