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EDTC 803

Assessment 4– Constructing Visual Aids

Dr. Amerman

August 20, 2023

Memorandum

To: Dr. T Amerman, Professor, New Jersey City University

From: Himani Nigam, Student, New Jersey City University

Date: August 20, 2023

Subject: Comparing chronic absenteeism and 4-year graduation rates in East Brunswick High School and New Brunswick High School.

The purpose of this memorandum is to compare and analyze the absenteeism of student of East Brunswick and New Brunswick high school and its effect on 4- year graduation rate from the high school using data from 2016 – 2022 school years. There is no data available pertaining to absenteeism during 2019 -2020 school due to Covid -19 pandemic and hence was not included in the study. Table 1 shows the number of students in each high school and the percentage of chronic absenteeism in the last five years. “The school-level chronic absenteeism rate is calculated by dividing the total number of chronically absent students during the school year by the total number of students enrolled in the school during the school year” (Guidance for Reporting Student Absences and Calculating Chronic Absenteeism, 2021). It was found that absenteeism in New Brunswick high school was slightly higher than the East Brunswick high school each year, before and after the pandemic. Absenteeism increased for both schools during 2021- 2022 from the previous school year. The reasons for chronic absenteeism can anything like bad grades, bullying, illness, mental and emotional health issues, caring for a family member or housing and food difficulties (Naesp, 2016). Figure 1 shows the graphical representation of the data. It can be seen that in 2021-2022, absenteeism in East Brunswick school was lesser by 11.6%, in 2020 – 2021 it was lesser by 8.1%, in 2018 – 2019 it was lesser by 8.6%, in 2017 – 2018 it was lesser by 1.9% and lastly in 2016 -2017 absenteeism was lesser by 5.4%. However, during 2017-2018, the difference between absenteeism of each school was only 1.9% which was the only year where the difference wasn't significant. In the state of New Jersey, “absenteeism rose, with 13% of students reported as chronically absent, up from 11% in 2018-19 (it was unreported in 2019-20 because of the pandemic). Chronic absenteeism was highest among unhoused students (40%), students in foster care (33%), and Black students (25%)” (Difilippo, 2022)

Table 2 shows data about absenteeism and 4 – year graduation rate for both the high school. Research shows that absences from school impact a student’s ability to succeed in school. If a student misses 10% or more of the school year, it can lead to low academic achievement and can be indicative of a student’s risk of dropping out of school (Balfanz and Byrne, 2012). Looking at the data from the table, students from East Brunswick high school had lesser percentage of absenteeism than compared to New Brunswick high school and they also had a higher graduation rate too. Studies have shown that if students are to succeed in school, they need to attend school daily. Attendance in school affects standardized test scores and graduation and dropout scores (Balfanz and Byrne, 2012). If students do not have enough instruction time due to chronic absenteeism, it becomes hard for them to pass year -end examinations. Figure 2 shows a graphical representation of the data where only during school year 2017- 2018, absenteeism of students from both schools was not significantly different. However, there was significant difference in graduation rate of students at both the high schools. East Brunswick high school students had almost 23.9 % higher in 2021-2022, 28.9% higher in 2020 – 2021, 19.5% higher in 2018 – 2019, 25.2% higher in 2017 – 2018 and 28.2% higher in 2016 -2017.

In conclusion, after analyzing the data it can be said that absenteeism does affect the graduation rate of students, but other factors affect graduation rates as well. An indicator of the above statement is that in the school year 2017-2018, where the difference in absenteeism between East Brunswick high school and New Brunswick high school was only 1.9%, there was a substantial difference in the graduation rate (25.2%).

Table 1 – Comparison of total number of students and absenteeism among the students in East Brunswick and New Brunswick High Schools between 2016-2022.

Year	EBHS Total Students	EBHS Chronic Absenteeism	NBHS Total Students	NBHS Chronic Absenteeism
2021- 2022	2005	14.0%	2298	25.6%
2020 - 2021	2029	12.6%	2226	20.7%
2018 - 2019	2076	13.3%	2116	21.9%
2017 - 2018	2040	19.1%	2045	21.0%
2016 -2017	2056	15.7%	1942	21.1%

NOTE: NJDOE was not able to measure school performance and student achievement data from 2019- 2020 due to the covid -19 pandemic.

Figure 1 – Bar graph showing absenteeism among the students of East Brunswick and New Brunswick High Schools between 2016-2022.

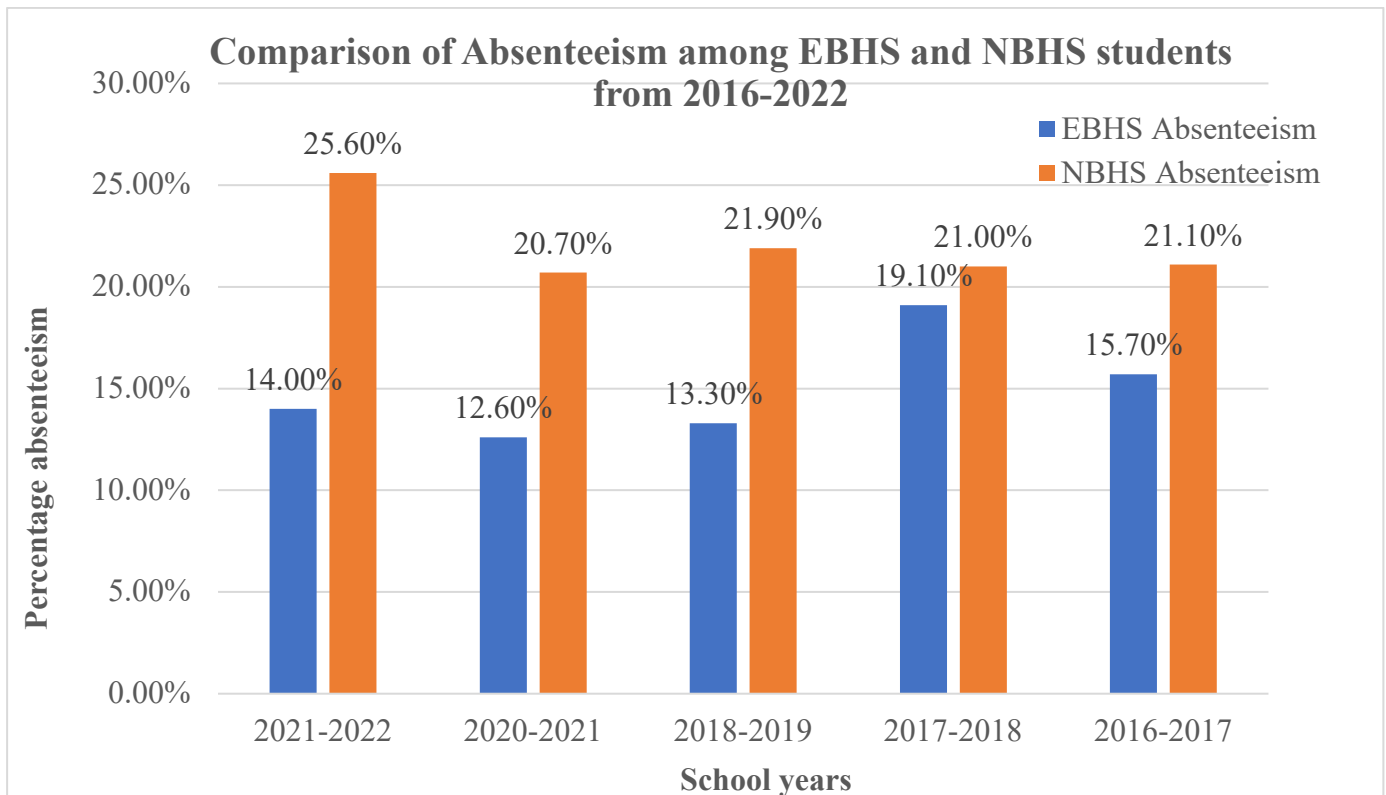
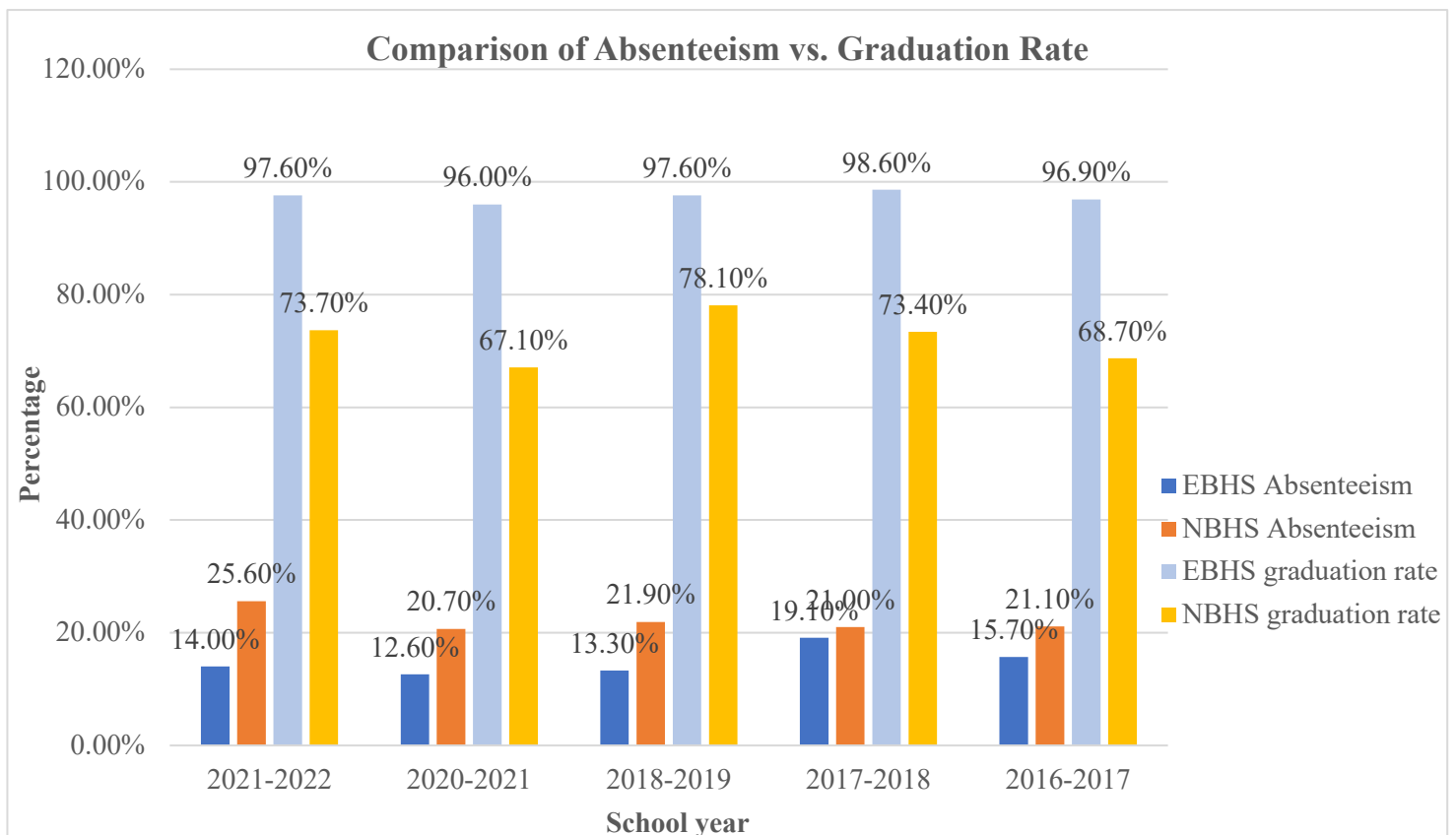


Table 2 - Comparison of Absenteeism among students and graduation rate of students in East Brunswick and New Brunswick High Schools

Year	EBHS Absenteeism	EBHS 4-year Graduation Rate	NBHS Absenteeism	NBHS 4- year Graduation Rate
2021- 2022	14.0%	97.6%	25.6%	73.7%
2020 - 2021	12.6%	96.0%	20.7%	67.1%
2018 - 2019	13.3%	97.6%	21.9%	78.1%
2017 - 2018	19.1%	98.6 %	21.0%	73.4%
2016 -2017	15.7%	96.9%	21.1%	68.7%

Note: NJDOE was not able to measure school performance and student achievement data from 2019- 2020 due to the covid -19 pandemic

Figure 2 – Comparison of Absenteeism among students and graduation rate of students in East Brunswick and New Brunswick High Schools



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