

STUDENT ATTENDANCE MATTERS

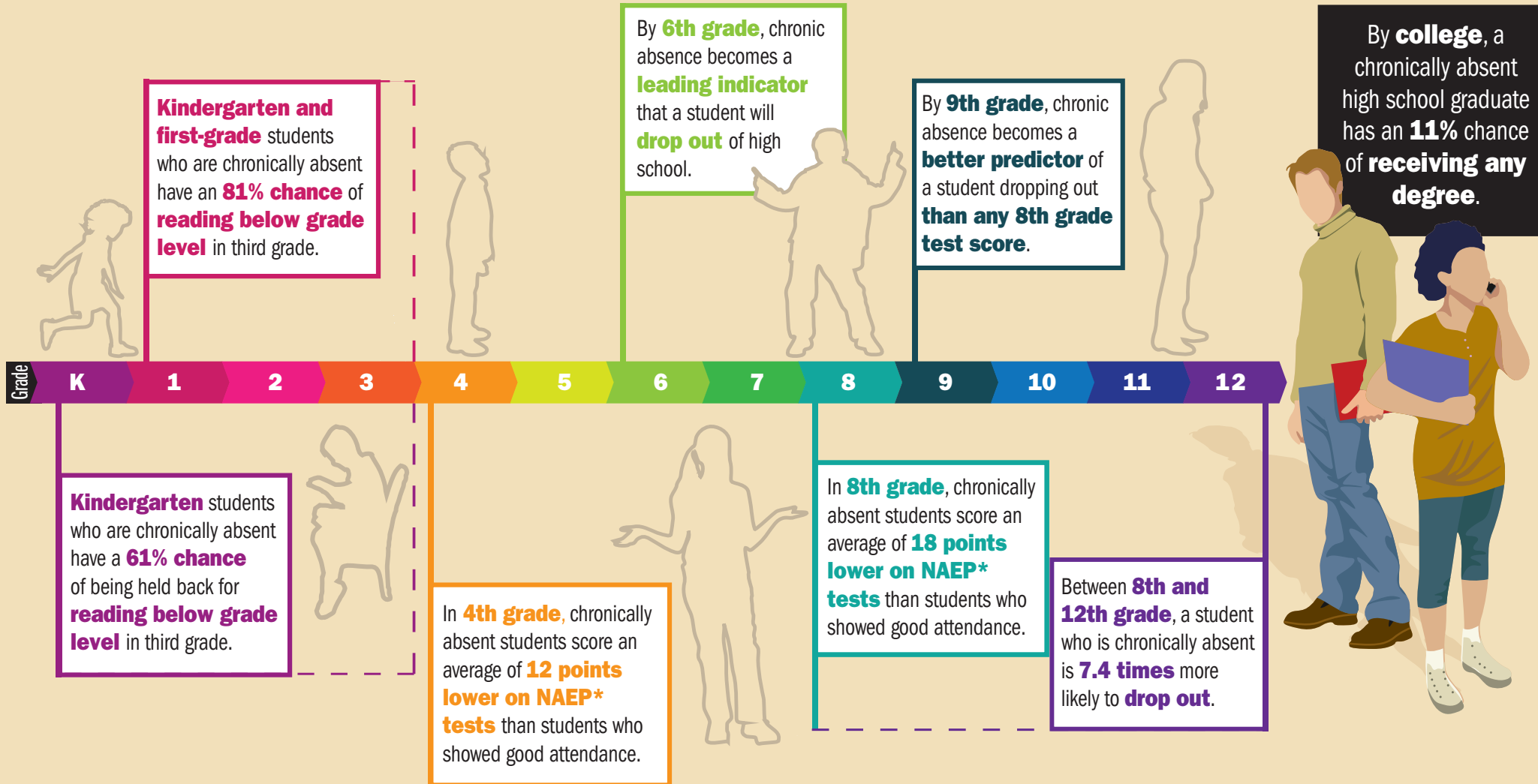
There are an estimated 5–7.5 million students in the United States who are chronically absent from school.

Chronic absenteeism hurts students in a variety of ways as they progress through their school career, starting with kindergarten.

DEFINITIONS:

Chronic Absence – Missing 2 days each month, totaling 18 days, equals 10% of the school year

Good Attendance – Missing 9 days or less in a school year (5%)



Kindergarten and first-grade students who are chronically absent have an **81% chance** of **reading below grade level** in third grade.

By **6th grade**, chronic absence becomes a **leading indicator** that a student will **drop out** of high school.

By **9th grade**, chronic absence becomes a **better predictor** of a student dropping out **than any 8th grade test score**.

By **college**, a chronically absent high school graduate has an **11% chance** of **receiving any degree**.

Kindergarten students who are chronically absent have a **61% chance** of being held back for **reading below grade level** in third grade.

In **4th grade**, chronically absent students score an average of **12 points lower on NAEP* tests** than students who showed good attendance.

In **8th grade**, chronically absent students score an average of **18 points lower on NAEP* tests** than students who showed good attendance.

Between **8th and 12th grade**, a student who is chronically absent is **7.4 times** more likely to **drop out**.