

Addressing Chronic Absenteeism through Restorative Processes



STATE OF
NEBRASKA
JUDICIAL BRANCH

Office of Dispute
Resolution

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Learning Objectives

- Learn how Chronic Absenteeism Conferencing can address school attendance and family dynamics.
- Discuss the reasons students miss school and how to discover the root cause of chronic absenteeism.
- Distinguish which tier within the Nebraska Department of Education's multi-tiered system of support is best for restorative processes.
- Summarize the \$1 million grant providing funding to address chronic absenteeism prior to reaching 20 days.
- Review current Nebraska data regarding absenteeism numbers.
- Learn about the Nebraska Department of Education's focus on engaging families and communities.

What does restorative practice look like?



Adapted from Kek Seow Ling, IIRP 23rd World Conference

Nebraska Data on Victim Youth Conferencing

Target outcome 1: 95% of VYCs will result in a reparations agreement.

•Of 871 case referrals, 677 held a VYC. Of those 677 VYCs, 668 had a reparation plan (**99.6%**).

Target outcome 2: 95% of reparations agreements will be fulfilled.

•Of the 668 with a reparation plan, (**88.8%**) successfully fulfilled (546 of 668) or a least more than half (47 of 668) of the plan. **<1%** of youth did not follow through (9 of 668) and **<1%** of youth were unreachable (1 of 668). Data was missing for 74 of 668 cases.

Target Outcome 3: 97% of participants (e.g., youth, their parents, those harmed and surrogates) will report satisfaction with VYC.

•**91.1%** of participants who completed a post-VYC conference survey reported being extremely satisfied (299 of 651) or satisfied (294 of 651) with VYC. **93.2%** (607 of 651) said they would recommend VYC for others.

Target outcome 4: 82% of youth will not recidivate within 1 year of program participation

•**87%** of youth participants did not recidivate within 1-year of participating in the VYC program.

ODR, NDE & the mediation centers

Office of Dispute Resolution (ODR)

- An administrative office created by the Dispute Resolution Act
- ODR promotes mediation and RJ in the courts, in our families, and communities

Centers:

- Restorative processes
- Education issues related to special education
- Chronic Absenteeism Conferences

NDE:

- Family and Community Engagement
- Student, School and District Support
- Data, Policy and Research

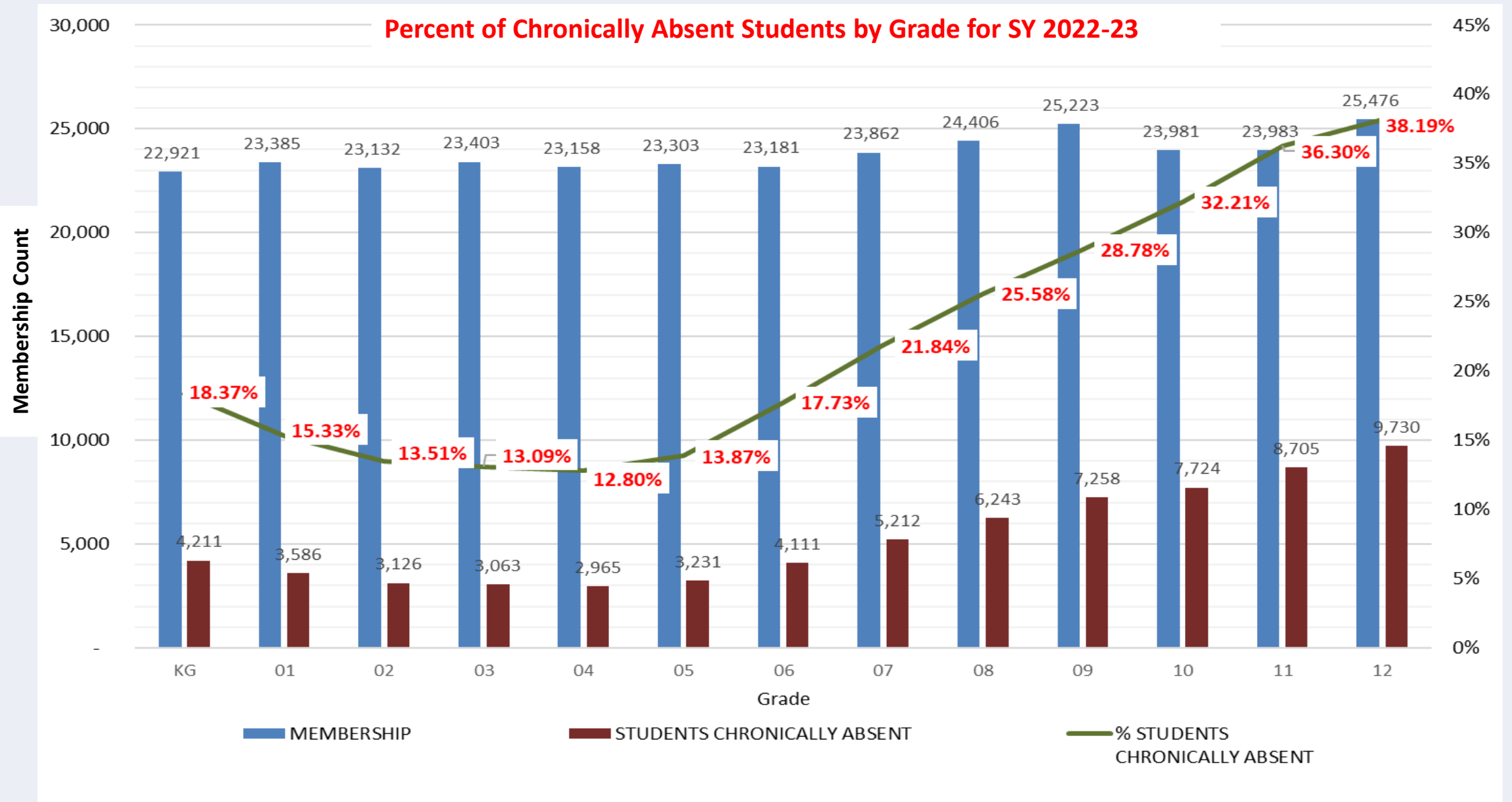




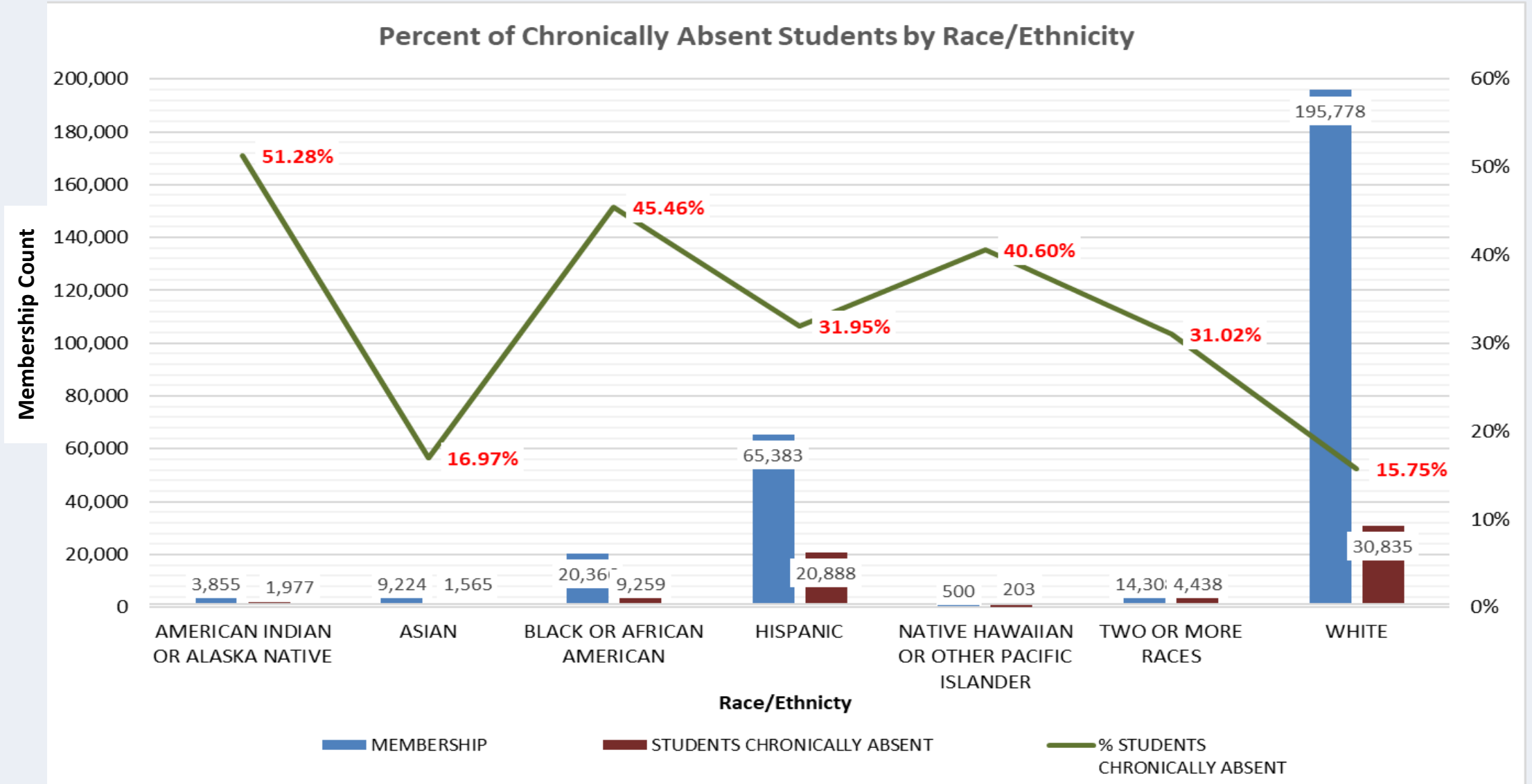
Poll

In **your** opinion, what are 3 of the top reasons youth miss school?

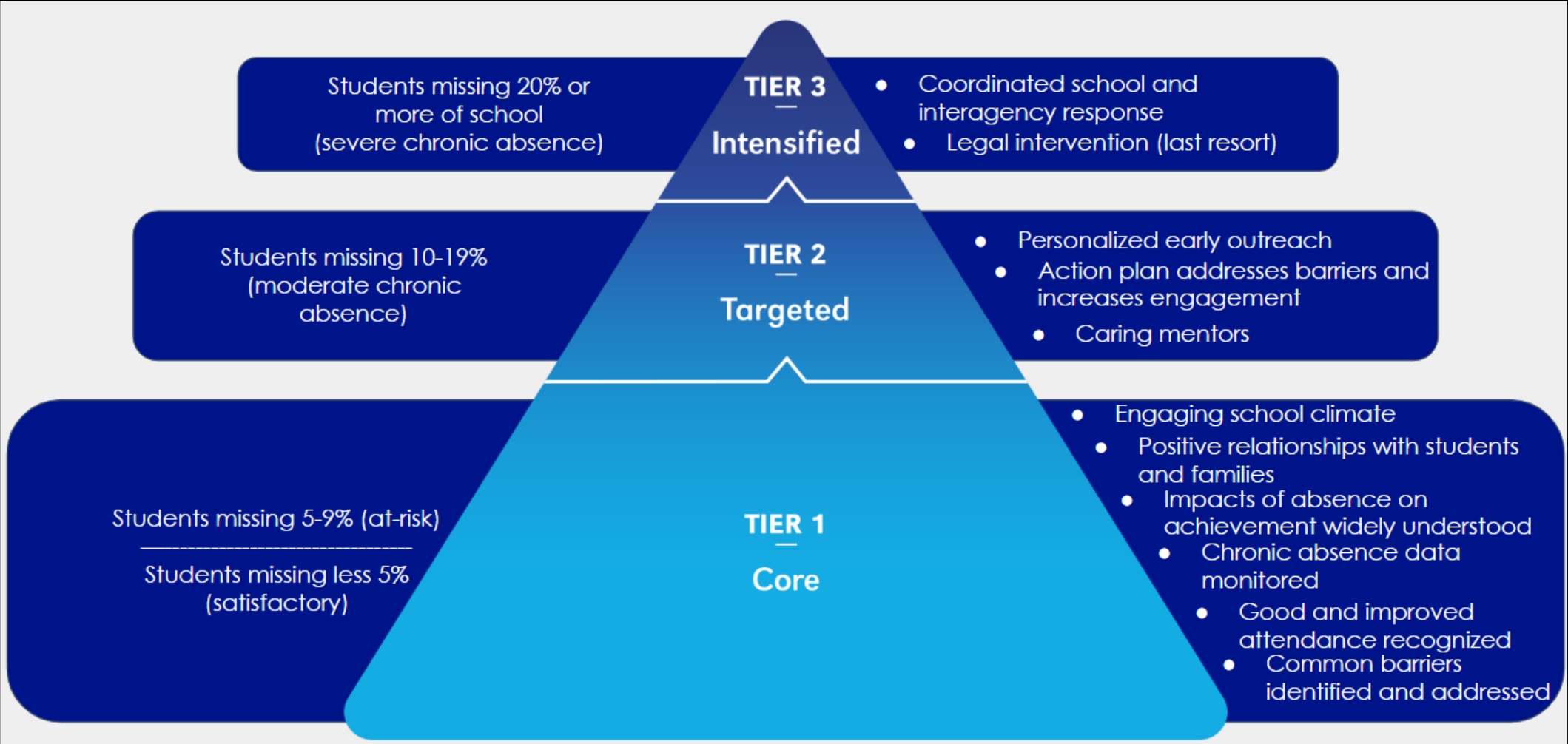
Statewide Chronic Absence Data



Statewide Chronic Absence Data



A Tiered Approach to Addressing Chronic Absenteeism



Multi-tiered Approach

Tier 1

- Clear, concise & consistent communication
- Routines, rituals & celebrations
- Personalized + communication
- Impact of attendance on whole child
- Connection to caring adult at school

Tier 2

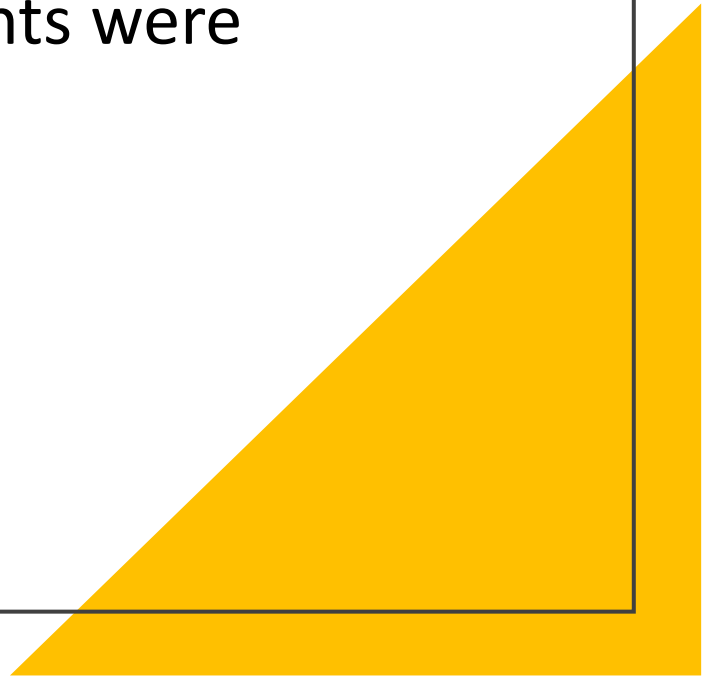
- Common community & school barriers identified & addressed*
- Individualized student success plan*
- Family visits*
- Staff & peer mentors*
- **Restorative alternatives**
**Can be addressed during a restorative conference*

Tier 3

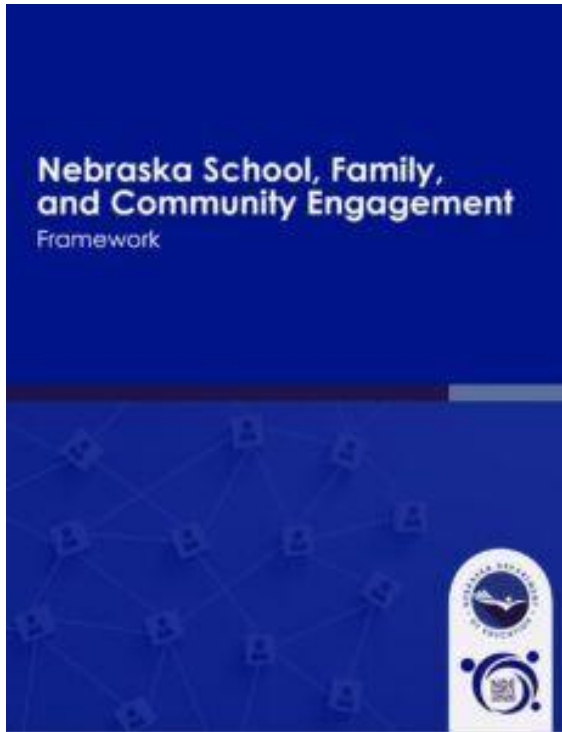
- Educational support champions / advocates
- Interagency case mgt
- Individualized learning & success plan
- Legal intervention (last resort)

Poll

During the 2022-2023 school year, what % of students were chronically absent?



NDE's Approach to Engaging Families & Communities



Toolkit supporting Schools

- Video trainings – *coming*
- Version for families – *coming*



2023-2024 Topics:

- Wellness and Habits for Success
- School Safety
- Literacy and Language Justice
- Partnering with Passionate Parents
- NE School, Family, and Community Engagement Framework



Nebraska Statewide Family Engagement Center

- Family Literacy
- Family Engagement
- Family Leadership

14 districts, 25 sites

NDE's Approach to Engaging Families & Communities

The logo for Early Childhood Education (ECE) features the letters 'ECE' in a bold, blue, sans-serif font. The 'E' and 'C' are connected, and the 'E' has a white circular cutout on its left side.

EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

The logo for the Office of Teaching, Learning, and Assessment (TL&A) features the letters 'TL&A' in a bold, blue, sans-serif font. The ampersand is stylized and white, positioned between the 'L' and 'A'.

OFFICE OF TEACHING,
LEARNING, AND ASSESSMENT

The logo for Special Education (SPED) features the letters 'SPED' in a bold, blue, sans-serif font. The 'S' and 'P' are connected, and the 'E' and 'D' are also connected.

SPECIAL EDUCATION



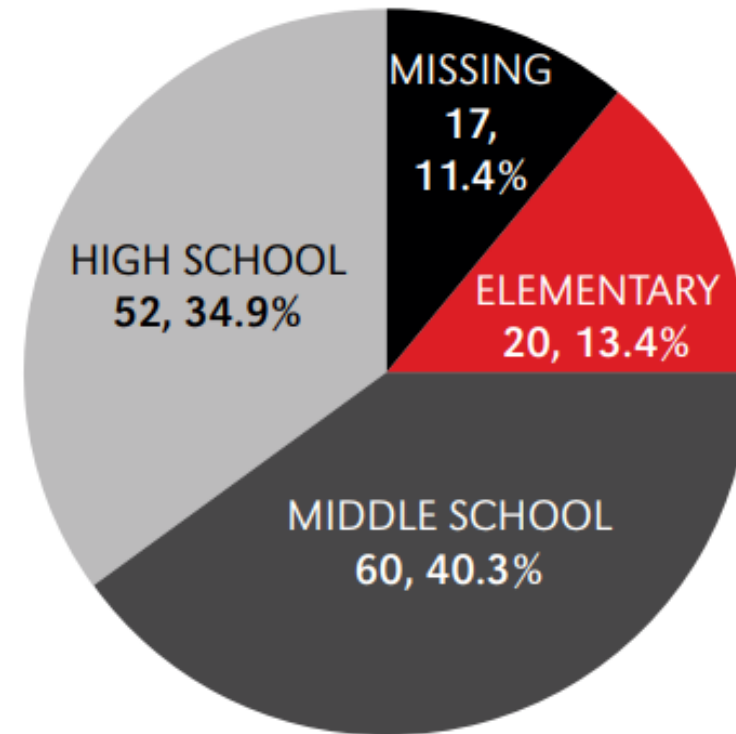
Learning that works
for Nebraska



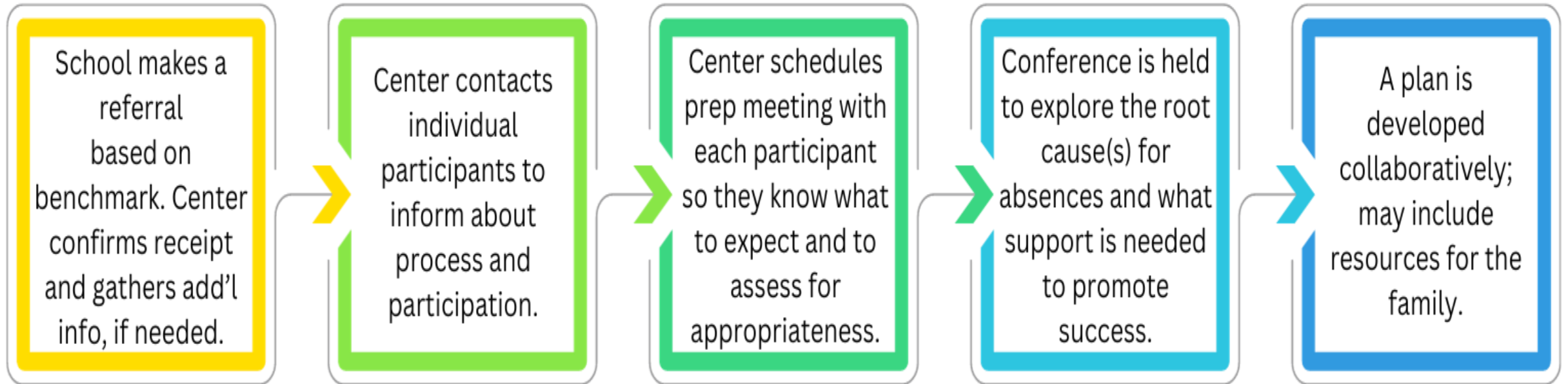
NEBRASKA
ENGLISH
LEARNER
PROGRAMS

Nebraska Data on Excessive Absenteeism & Truancy Cases

Referrals by Grade to Mediation Centers from March 2022 to June 2023



Chronic Absenteeism Conferencing Process

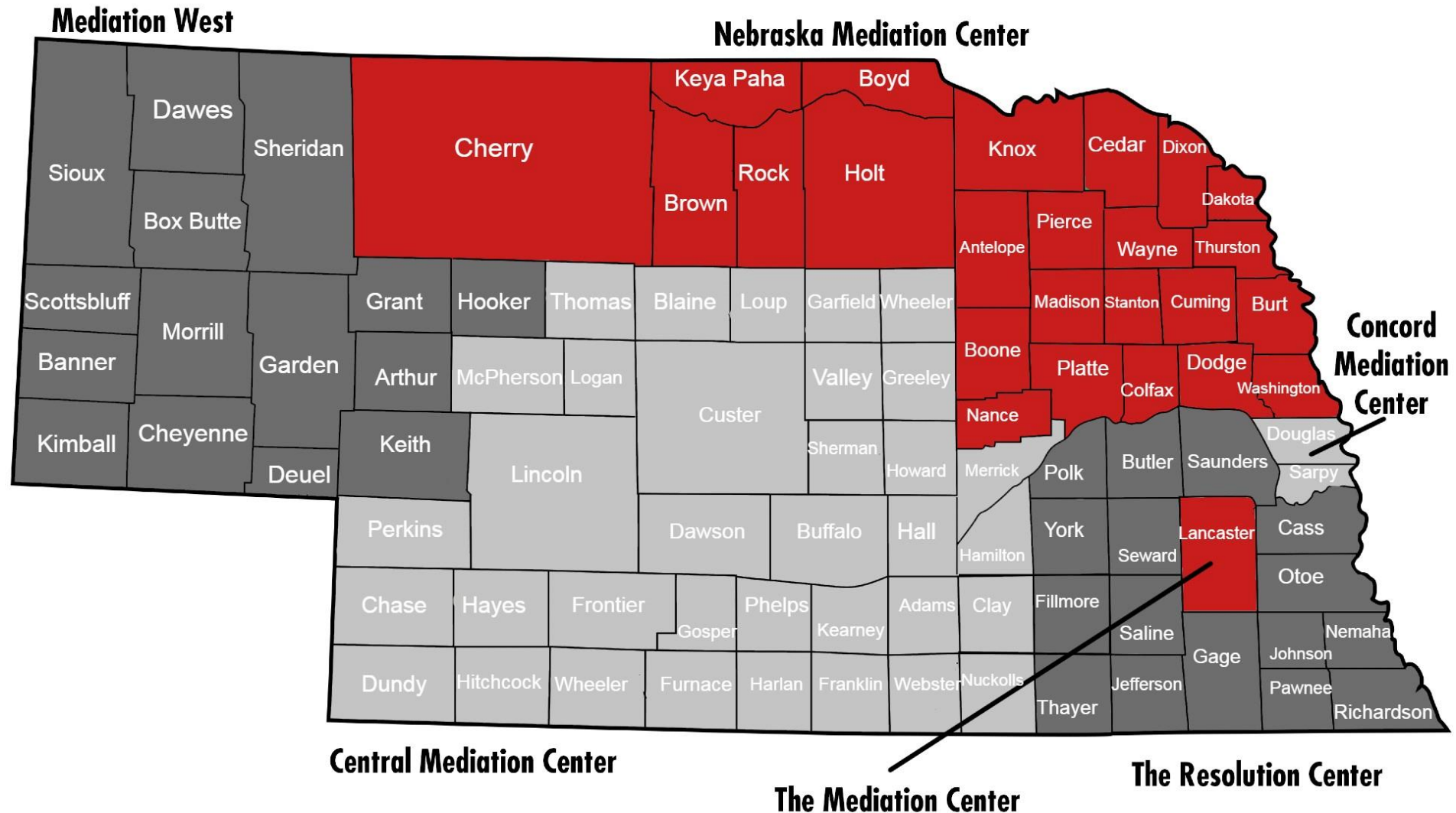




The Conference Itself

- Anyone can refer
- Supports at the conference
- Location of the conference can be at a variety of places
- Can be hybrid
- Reality testing

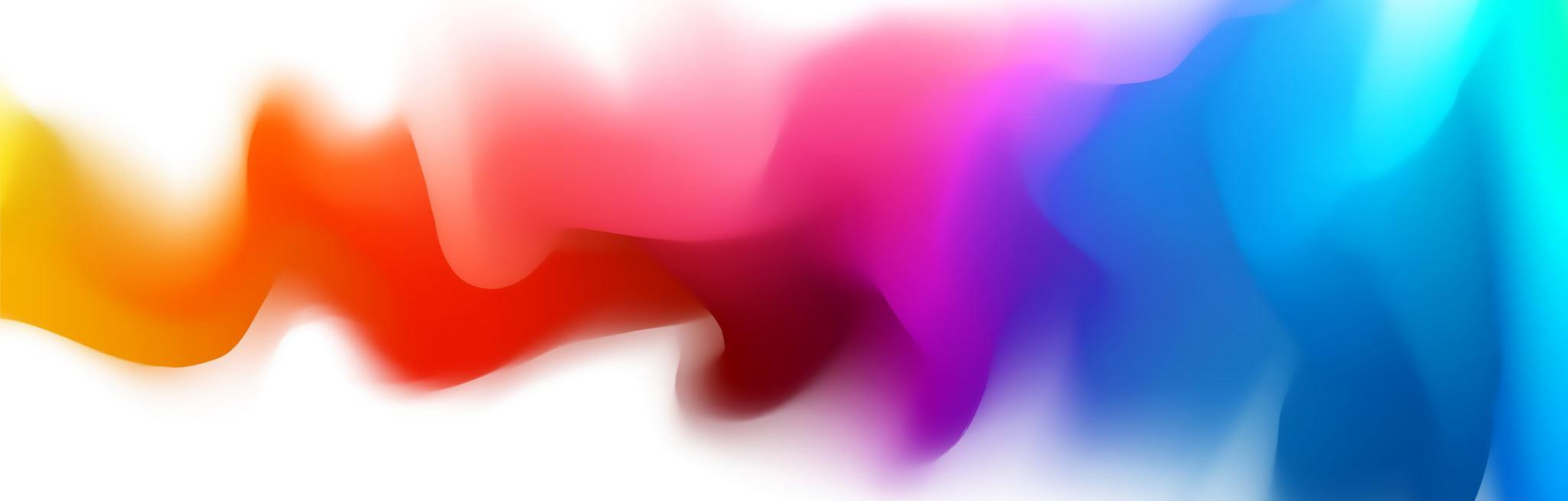
ODR-Approved Mediation Centers



Making a Referral

<https://nejudicial.com/rjreferral>





Panel Members

Panel Discussion and Q&A

Questions? Contact us!

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