

School Absenteeism Calculator

Improved classroom hygiene may reduce the incidence of illness and absenteeism, resulting in significant savings for your school.

ECONOMICS OF CLEAN

Student Absenteeism		
	Example	Your School
Total number of students	513 ¹	
	X	X
Cost of absenteeism per day per student ²	\$30	\$
	X	X
Average No. of days per year students are absent due to illness ^{3,4}	4.5	4.5
Total annual cost of absenteeism due to illness	= \$69,255	= \$ _____
	X	X
Reduction in absenteeism ^{3,5}	20%	20%
Potential Savings	= \$13,851	= \$ _____

Teacher Absenteeism		
	Example	Your School
Total number of teachers	32 ⁶	
	X	X
Cost of absenteeism per day per teacher	\$105 ⁷	\$
	X	X
Average No. of days per year teachers are absent due to illness ⁴	5.3	5.3
Total annual cost of absenteeism due to illness	= \$17,808	= \$ _____
	X	X
Reduction in absenteeism ^{3,5}	20%	20%
Potential Savings	= \$3,561	= \$ _____

Reduction in absenteeism ^{3,5}	\$ 13,851 + \$ 3,561 =	Potential Student Savings + Teacher Savings for your school
Total Potential Savings	= 17,412	= \$ _____



- ▶ According to a recent study, the inanimate surfaces most commonly contaminated with bacteria or viruses in schools include the water fountain toggles, pencil sharpeners, keyboards, faucet handles, desktops and paper towel dispensers.³
- ▶ Two national studies indicate that the implementation of interventions that included surface disinfection resulted in a reduction in school absenteeism (10-15%⁵, 50%³). For illustrative purposes, we use 20%.

Do the Math. Do the Right Thing for Your School.

- 513 Students is an estimate of the average number of students in a national public school. The Center for Educational Reform K-12 fact sheet indicates that as of 2015 there were 98,277 public schools with a total public school enrollment of 50,438,000.
- This cost varies depending on the type of school, the state the school is in and other factors. For the purposes of this example we will use \$30. A California charter school loses \$41 per day per student absent. The Washington Post, How some school funding formulas hurt learning and make schools more dangerous, 2015.
- Bright KR, Boone SA, Gerba CP. Occurrence of Bacteria and Viruses on Elementary Classroom Surfaces and the Potential Role of Classroom Hygiene in the Spread of Infectious Diseases. J School Nursing. 2010;26(1):33-41.
- Azor-Martinez E, Gonzalez-Jimenez, Y, Seijas-Vazquez ML. The impact of common infections on school absenteeism during an academic year. Am J Infect Control. 2014; 42(6):632-637. Minnesota Department of Health publication of information compiled by The Soap and Detergent Association, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the Department of Health and Human Services. "Absenteeism Is Expensive."
- Sandora TJ, Shih MC, Goldmann DA. Reducing Absenteeism from Gastrointestinal and Respiratory Illness in Elementary School Students. Pediatrics. 2008;121(6):1555-62.
- The Center for Educational Reform K-12 fact sheet indicates that as of 2015 there were 3,151,00 public school teachers with a school student to teacher ratio of 16:1, so for every 513 students there are approximately 32 teachers.
- National average for a substitute teacher is \$105 per full day according to the National Substitute Teachers Alliance, retrieved 2019.