Evaluating School Attendance Data Using SAS®

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The worst part of going to school is having to show up. However, data shows that those who do show up are the ones that are going to be the most successful (Johnson, 2000). As shown in a study done in Minneapolis, students who were in class at least 95% of the time were twice as likely pass state tests (Johnson, 2000). Studies have been conducted and show that school districts that show interest in attendance have higher achievement in students (Reeves, 2008). The goal in doing research on student attendance is to find out the patterns of when people are missing class and why they are absent. The data comes directly from the Phillip O Berry High School Attendance Office, with around 1600 students; there is plenty of data to be used from the 2012–2013 school year. Using Base SAS® 9.3, after importing the data in from Microsoft Excel, a series of PROC formats and PROC GCharts were used to output and analyze the data. The data showed the days of the week and period that students missed the most, depending on grade level. The data shows that Freshman and Seniors were the most likely to be absent on a given day. Based on the data, attendance continues to be an issue; therefore, school districts need to take an active role in developing attendance policies.

- **Abstract**
  - Finding Patterns In Student Attendance
  - Finding Why Students are Absent
  - How the data correlates over the week

- **Method**
  - Acquiring Quantitative Data From the School Attendance Office
  - Merging All of Data into SAS Tables
  - Using PROC Freq, Gchart, Means etc. To Analyze Data

- **Conclusions**
  - We need to find ways to improve student attendance.
  - Create incentives to motivate students for near perfect-perfect attendance.
  - Possibly starting later would improve student attendance and performance.

- **References**
  - Johnson, 2000
  - Reeves, 2008