

EXECUTIVE BRIEF · CHAPTER 3

Behind many empty desks are **students who are struggling.**

In Luna County, more than 1 in 5 students misses too much school. Many are carrying sadness no one sees. Help works, when it's steady.

THE REVEAL

Students who kept going came back

Fewer missed days in the year after starting counseling, by number of sessions

→ Attendance records + counseling logs, 2024–25



Steady help brought students back. But only **18 in 100** counseled students reached 20 sessions, so the county number stayed flat.

4 in 10

High schoolers feel sad most days

Only 3 in 10 of them get help. Missing school and feeling low feed each other.

→ Student wellbeing survey, spring 2025

A

Catch the dip early

Attendance slips months before a first counseling visit. Flag three-month dips and offer a check-in.

→ Monthly attendance, matched to first visit

B

Keep help steady

Plan for 20 sessions, not one visit. Track how many students get there each term.

→ Counseling logs, sessions per student

HOW WE GOT THESE NUMBERS			
22% Students who missed 10%+ of school days. District attendance records, all grades, 2025–26.	4 in 10 High schoolers who said they felt sad most days for 2+ weeks. Anonymous survey, 4,812 students.	6.2 days Each student's missed days, 12 months before vs. after first counseling visit. 1,140 students.	18 in 100 Counseled students who reached 20+ sessions in a year. Counseling visit logs.

What this shows, and what it doesn't. Steady help lines up with students coming back. That points to a cause; it doesn't prove one. Transport, illness, family duties, and bullying also keep students home.