



# A COMPREHENSIVE REVIEW OF SCHOOL ATTENDANCE PROBLEMS IN SPAIN



**Carolina González, María Vicent &  
Ricardo Sanmartín**

University of Alicante  
Spain

**INSA's 2022 Conference - October 5th, 6th and 7th**

**The Netherlands**

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weaknesses



1

## Spanish Educational System



Schooling in Spain is state-funded and compulsory between the ages of 6-16.

Three categories of Spanish schools:

- Public schools.
- Semi-private schools.
- Private schools.

1

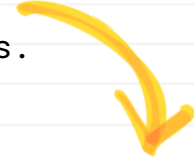
## Spanish Educational System



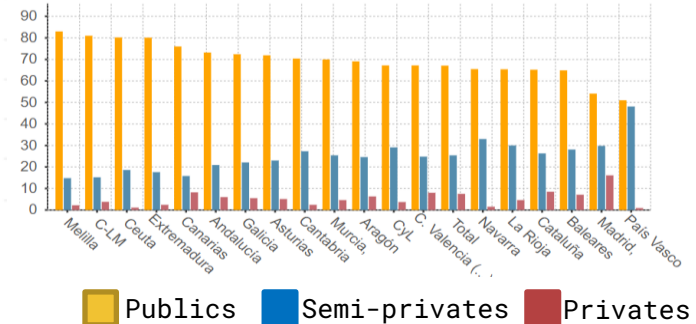
Schooling in Spain is state-funded and compulsory between the ages of 6-16.

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- Public schools.
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Distribution of schools in public, private and semi-private schools (2021-2022)



1

## Spanish Educational System



Schooling in Spain is state-funded and compulsory between the ages of 6-16.

Three categories of Spanish schools:

- Public schools.
- Private schools.
- Semi-private schools.

Timetable: from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. (2h lunch).  
from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

The **Organic Law 30/2020** by which is modify The Organic Law 2/2006 and abolish the Organic Law 8/2013.

1

## Spanish Educational System



## SCHOOL ATTENDANCE

- Parents are legally responsible for getting their school-aged children to school regularly (article 226.1 of the Spanish Penal Code).
  - Right to education.
  - Protection of minors.

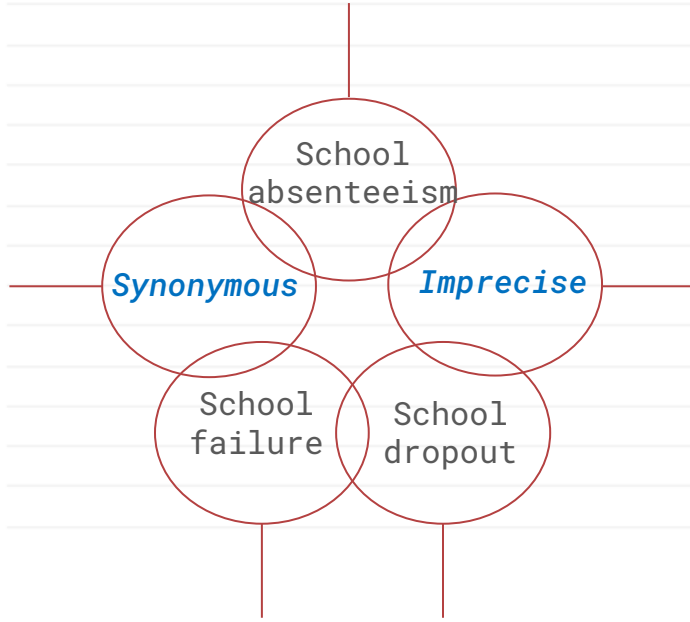


**School absenteeism does not receive the attention it deserves in Spain**

- PISA reports (25-28% of school absences in the 4th year of secondary compulsory.
- This socio-educational reality is scarcely visible.

2

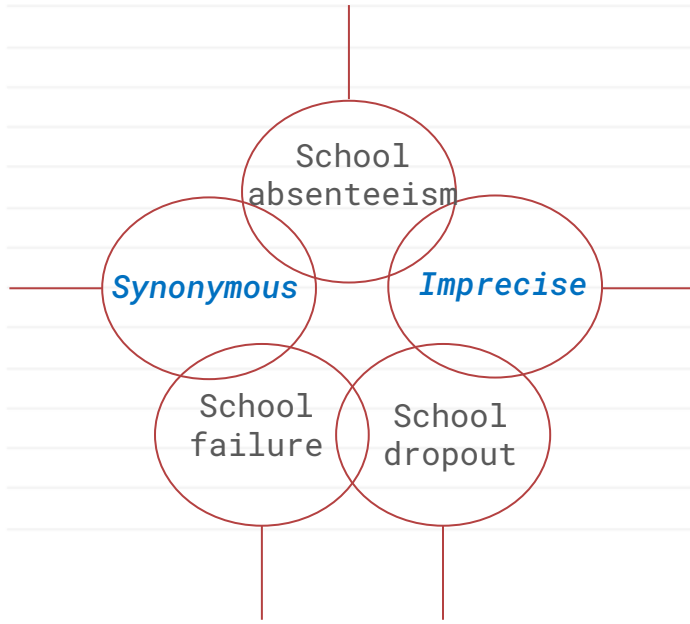
## Conceptualization Attendance & Absenteeism





## 2

### Conceptualization Attendance & Absenteeism



### School absenteeism

- Unjustified absence from the classroom of a student of compulsory school age from 6 to 16 years old (Cruz et al., 2017).



- Mild absenteeism: 15% to 25% of unjustified absences.
- Serious absenteeism: 25% to 50% of unjustified absences.

# 3

## Attendance data recording and reporting

Datos y cifras Ministerio de Educación y Formación Profesional

Curso escolar 2021/2022

Ministerio de Educación y Formación Profesional

Datos y cifras  
Curso escolar 2021/2022

Alumnado .....	3
Inversión en educación .....	10
La dimensión social de la educación: Becas y ayudas al estudio .....	12
Profesorado .....	14
Centros educativos .....	17
Enseñanzas .....	18
Los resultados educativos de la población .....	28
Tecnologías de la información y la comunicación en la educación y la formación .....	33
El aprendizaje de lenguas extranjeras .....	36
La movilidad educativa internacional .....	37
Notas explicativas .....	38
Estructura del Sistema Educativo Español .....	41

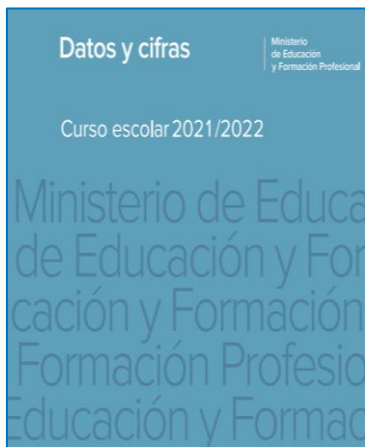
“Facts and figures”



A series of horizontal lines on the right page, intended for writing or notes.

# 3

## Attendance data recording and reporting



Datos y cifras Curso escolar 2021/2022	
Alumnado .....	3
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“Facts and figures”

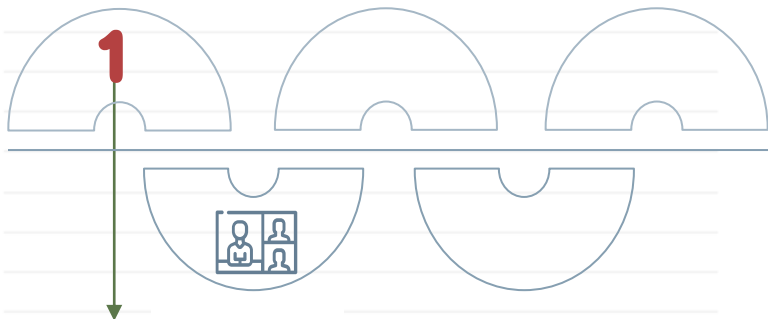


- Data and figures School year 2021-2022: early school leaving.
- Official Spanish educational Statistics: do not mention school absenteeism.
- Invisibility and lack of public presence.
- Between 5 and 10% the percentage of students of school age affected by school absenteeism (Barcelona).

### 3

## Attendance data recording and reporting

*School level intervention*



Teachers  
record  
absences

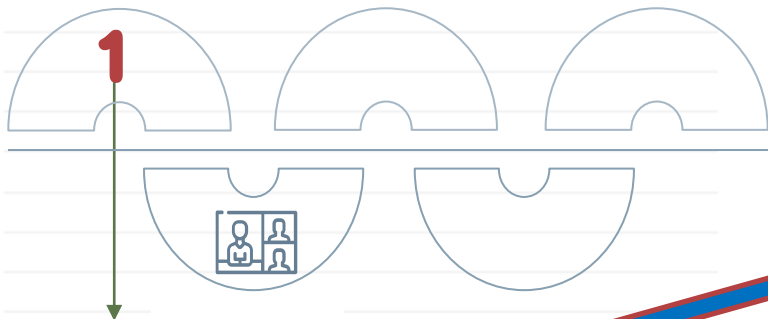


HOW DO WE RECORD  
ABSENCES?

### 3

## Attendance data recording and reporting

### School level intervention



Teachers record absences



## HOW DO WE RECORD ABSENCES?

A screenshot of a digital attendance recording interface. At the top, it shows the date and time: "Dilluns, 10:05 h.". There are navigation buttons for "Anterior" and "Següent". Below this, there are two rows of student records, each with a profile icon, name, and subject: "3ESOB - Matemàtiques orientades a las ensenyances aplicades".

	COMPORTAMENT	FALTA	RETARD	JUSTIFICACIÓ
Teacher 1	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Teacher 2	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Labels at the bottom: "Misbehaviour" points to "COMPORTAMENT", and "Delay" points to "RETARD".

Labels at the top: "Absence" points to "FALTA", and "Excused absence" points to "JUSTIFICACIÓ".



# 3

## Attendance data recording and reporting

### School level intervention



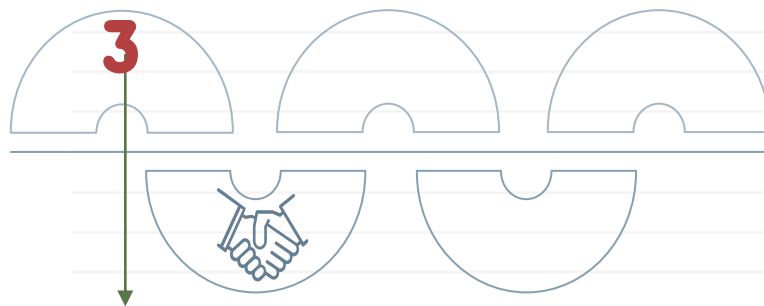
Teachers record absences



If absenteeism is detected. Contact family and student.

## STEPS TO COMBAT SCHOOL ABSENTEEISM

### External bodies intervention



If absenteeism persists. Contact social services.

### 3

## Attendance data recording and reporting

### School level intervention



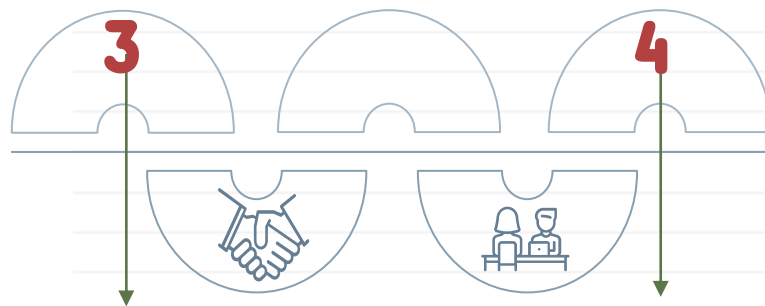
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If absenteeism is detect.  
Contact family and student.

## STEPS TO COMBAT SCHOOL ABSENTEEISM

### External bodies intervention



If absenteeism persists.  
Contact social services.

If absenteeism persists.  
Contact Juvenile Prosecution Service



4

## Strengths and weaknesses



- \* Difficulty in accessing statistical data and reports.
- \* Requires more intense attention from policy makers.
- \* Increase coordination: educational, social welfare and judicial.

- \* The state and regional regulations for the protection of minors highlight the right to education.
- \* Action protocols to combat school absenteeism.
- \* Specialized research groups.



**Interdisciplinary  
team:**

Psychologists,  
pedagogue and  
teachers

**Profiles:**

PhD students  
Lecturer  
Senior lecturer  
Professor



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 Psychologists, pedagogue and teachers

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 Professor



**Research lines**

- Theoretical reviews.
- Instrument validations.
- School refusal and academic and psychological variables.
- Identification of school refusal profiles.

**We are working on:**

- Multilevel studies.
- Longitudinal studies.
- Design of new measures.
- Meta-analysis

Contents lists available at ScienceDirect

**International Journal of Educational Research**

journal homepage: [www.elsevier.com/locate/ijedures](http://www.elsevier.com/locate/ijedures)

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Registered report

Assessing school attendance problems: A critical systematic review of questionnaires

Carolina González<sup>a,\*</sup>, Christopher A. Kearney<sup>b</sup>, María Vicent<sup>a</sup>, Ricardo Sanmartín<sup>a</sup>

<sup>a</sup> Department of Developmental Psychology and Teaching, University of Alicante, San Vicente del Raspeig, Spain  
<sup>b</sup> Department of Psychology, University of Nevada, Las Vegas, NV, USA

Article

**SCIENCE PROGRESS**

Exploring different types of school refusers through latent profile analysis and school-related stress associations

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**Carolina González**, **Ricardo Sanmartín**, **María Vicent** and **José Manuel García-Fernández**  
 Department of Developmental Psychology and Teaching, University of Alicante, Alicante, Spain

**Interdisciplinary team:**

Psychologists,  
pedagogue and  
teachers

**Profiles:**

PhD students  
Lecturer  
Senior lecturer  
Professor



**Research lines**

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- Longitudinal studies.
- Design of new measures.
- Meta-analysis

**Projects**

- National projects (assessment and variables).
- Region projects (profiles)

***INTERNATIONAL PROJECT***

**SOS-ATTENDANCE**  Erasmus+

Scientific **Observatory for School Attendance**

- Disseminate reports/research
  - Identify gaps/needs
  - Offer training
- Make the population aware of this problem



**Thank you very much for  
your attention**



carolina.gonzalvez@ua.es



Universitat d'Alacant  
Universidad de Alicante

**INSA**   
International Network  
for School Attendance