

H1N1: Lessons Learned

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Demographic Information:

- SCUCISD is a fast-growth suburban San Antonio school district that encompasses five cities and portions of both Guadalupe and Bexar Counties.
- Growth rates have averaged 10% per year for the past 10 years.
- Our enrollment is approaching 12,000 students this fall, with 15 separate campuses and two comprehensive high schools.
- Overall, 30% of the students in the District are military dependents. At Steele High School, approximately 40% of the students are military dependents.



What we experienced this past spring:

- The Schertz-Cibolo-Universal City ISD was closed eight instructional days this past spring due to H1N1. We were the first school district in the nation to close. The following is a timeline of the events as they unfolded this past April and May.



H1N1 Timeline:

- **Wednesday, April 22 - The principal of Steele High School received notification that two students might have Swine Flu, as it was called at that time.**
- **Thursday, April 23 – District 8 Health Authority, Dr. Sandra Guerra, called to say there were two highly probable cases of H1N1 and all parents in the District must be notified.**
- **Friday, April 24 - Matters changed very quickly. By 8:30 p.m. a county-wide conference call was initiated and we were notified that Steele High School would need to be closed beginning the next Monday morning**



H1N1 Timeline:

- **Saturday, April 25 - We spent the day preparing to close Steele High School.**
- **By 8:30 that evening, more cases had been identified and the closure went from being one campus to the entire district.**
- **The District remained closed until Thursday, May 7.**



What we did well as a district:

We used all methods of communication available to us during this time to include the following:

- Automated calling system
- Web page postings
- Traditional phone trees
- Established a plan for dealing with the media early in the process and kept our schedule
- Podcasts
- Streamed meetings with media live
- Set up public twitter account to answer questions
- Streamed board meetings live
- Posted lessons for students on-line

Lessons we learned:

- **Conflicting messages from the different entities caused confusion during the time we were closed.**
- **School Districts are new at dealing with pandemic situations.**
- **Cleaning facilities was necessary. Fear of the facilities is real.**
- **Patchwork closure does not appear to be effective.**
- **Political pressure is real and powerful.**
- **Closing is difficult for a community.**



Lessons we learned:

- During normal times there are families who have difficulty functioning. During unusual times these families face additional challenges.
- Delivering instruction during times of closure in a seamless manner consistent with classroom instruction is the goal.
- We are just beginning to understand the impact a pandemic experience has on students.
- The guidance provided by the CDC is dynamic. Often districts need more time to adjust to change in guidelines.

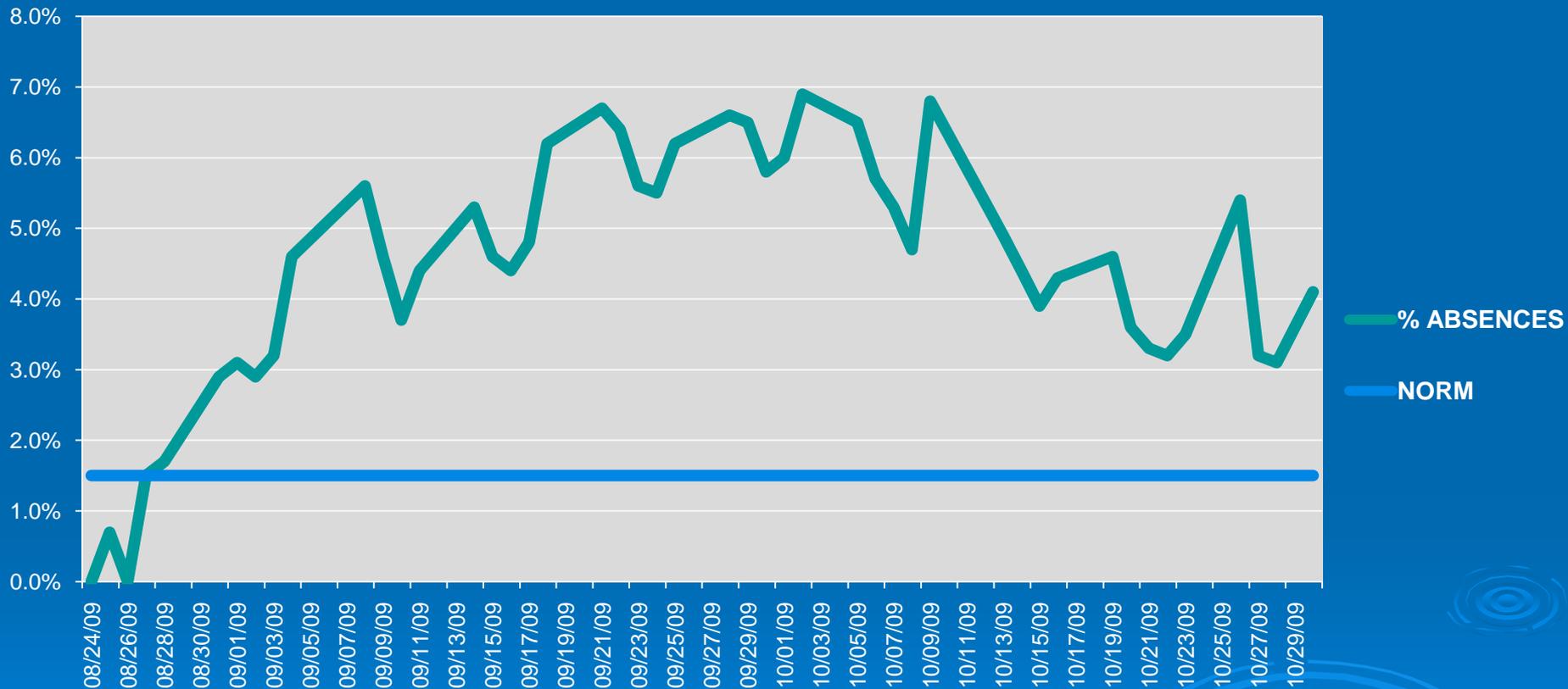
Before the beginning of 2009-2010 school year we knew:

- The possibility of facing another H1N1 outbreak at the beginning of the school year might catch districts off-guard.
- When vaccines become available, schools will be able to help in administering the vaccinations. Community support and resources will be needed.
- If closure is warranted, plans need to be made to continue instruction.
- All parents want their children to be safe. Some are better able to find the support they need.

Attendance for 2009-2010 School Year

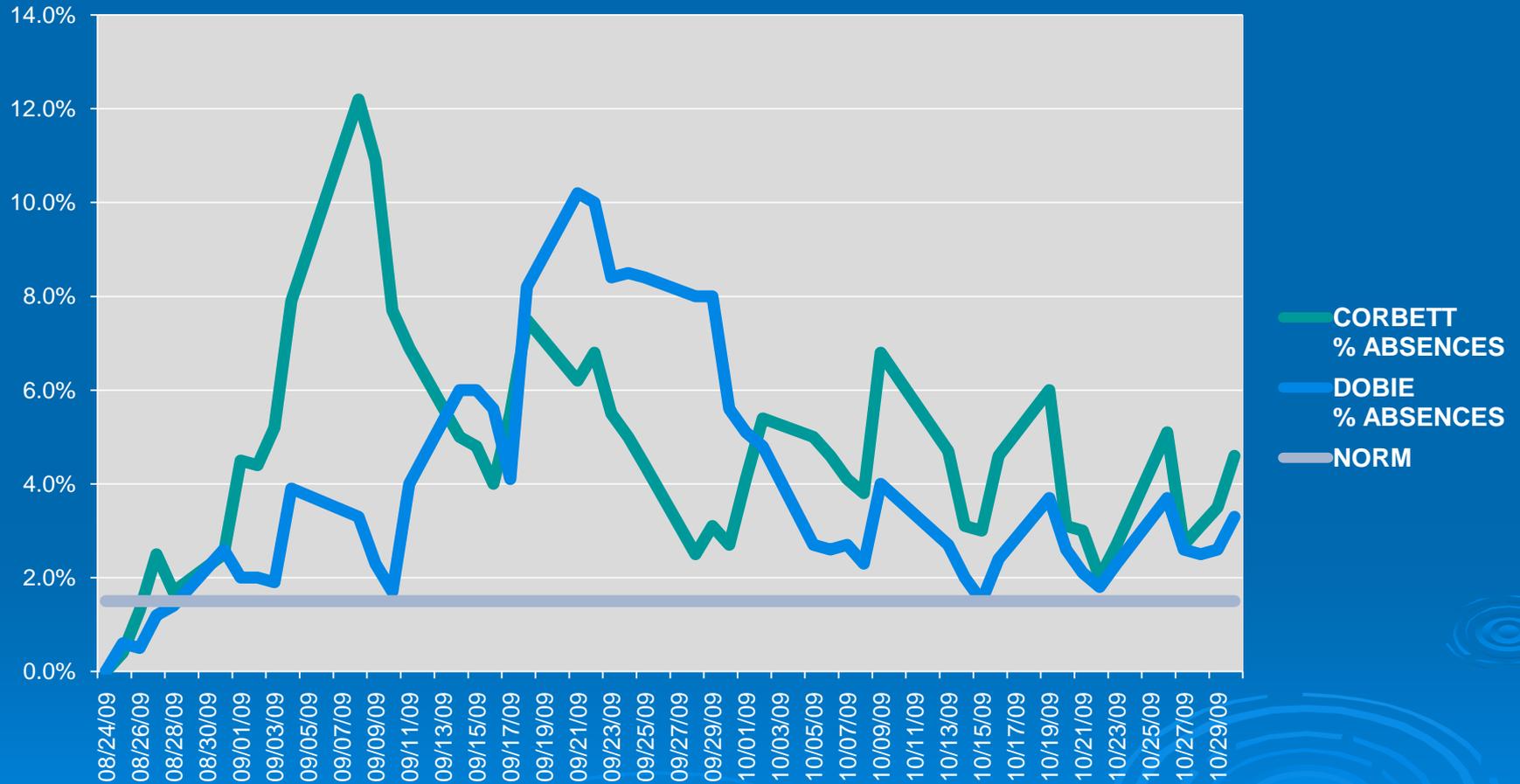
- **We typically enjoy a 97% attendance rate.**
- **Attendance rates to date have been significantly lower which translates into loss in revenue for the district.**

SUMMARY OF DAILY ABSENCES 2009-2010 DISTRICT-WIDE



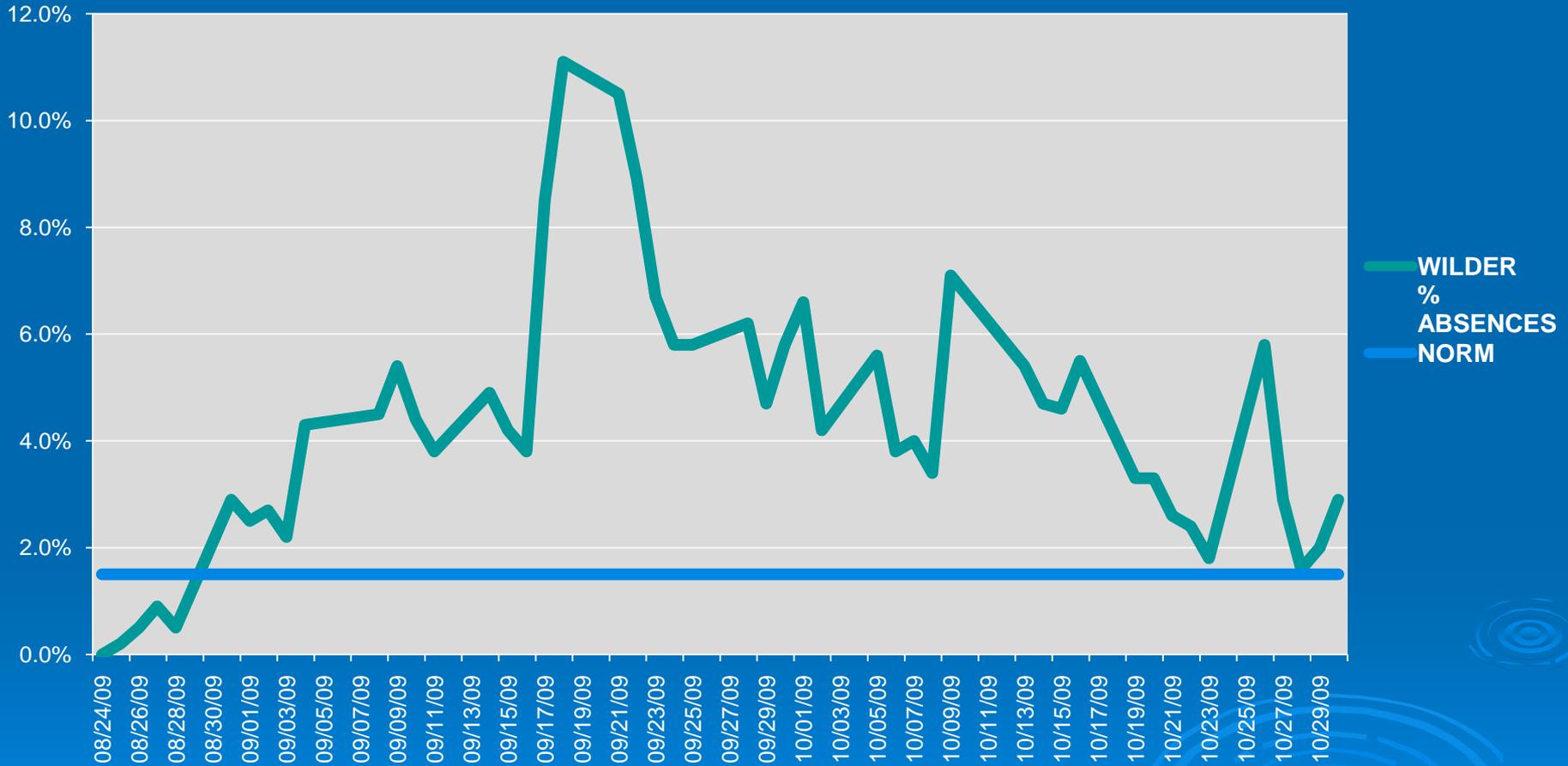
CORBETT AND DOBIE JR. HIGH SCHOOLS

Summary of Daily Absences



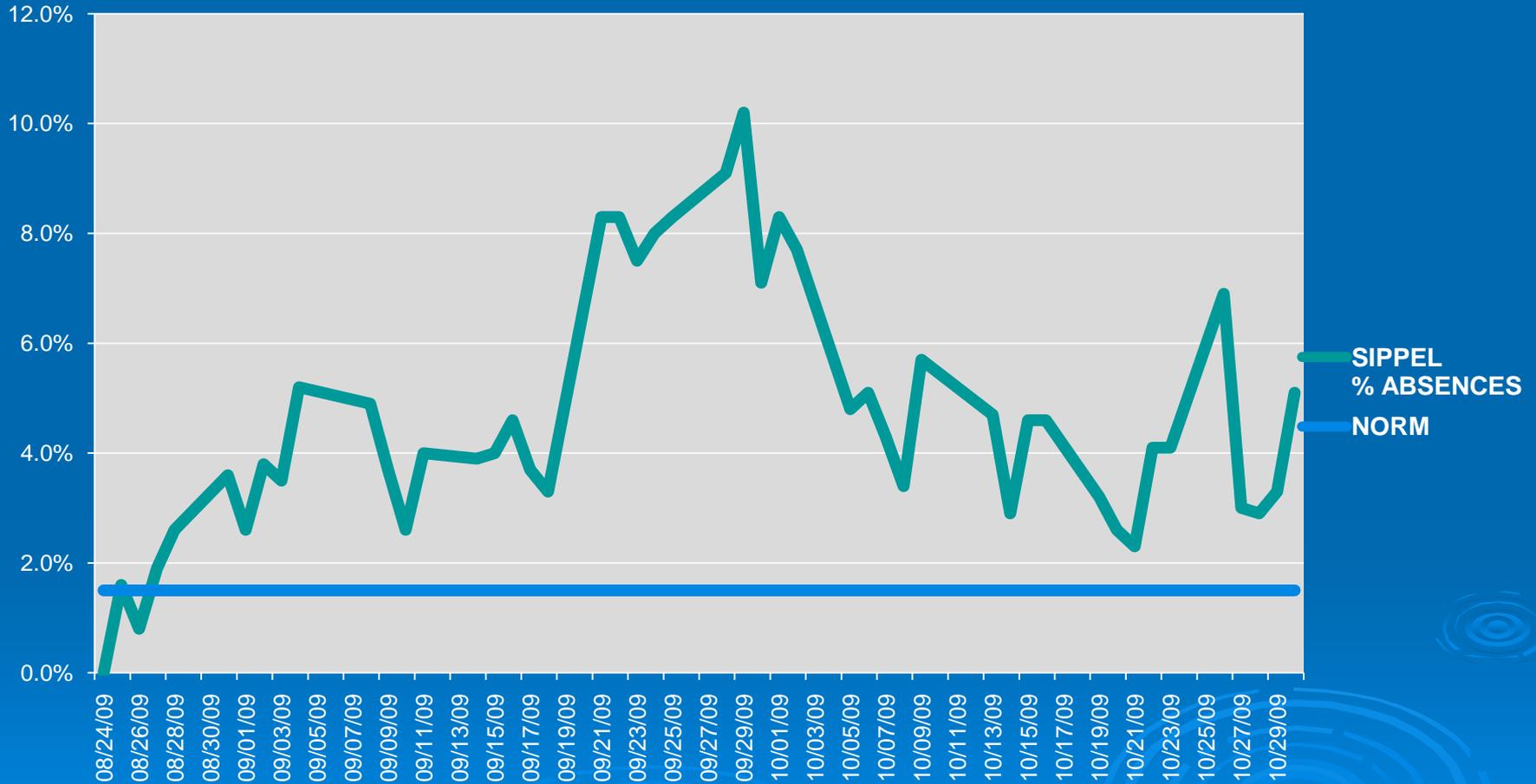
WILDER INTERMEDIATE

Summary of Daily Absences



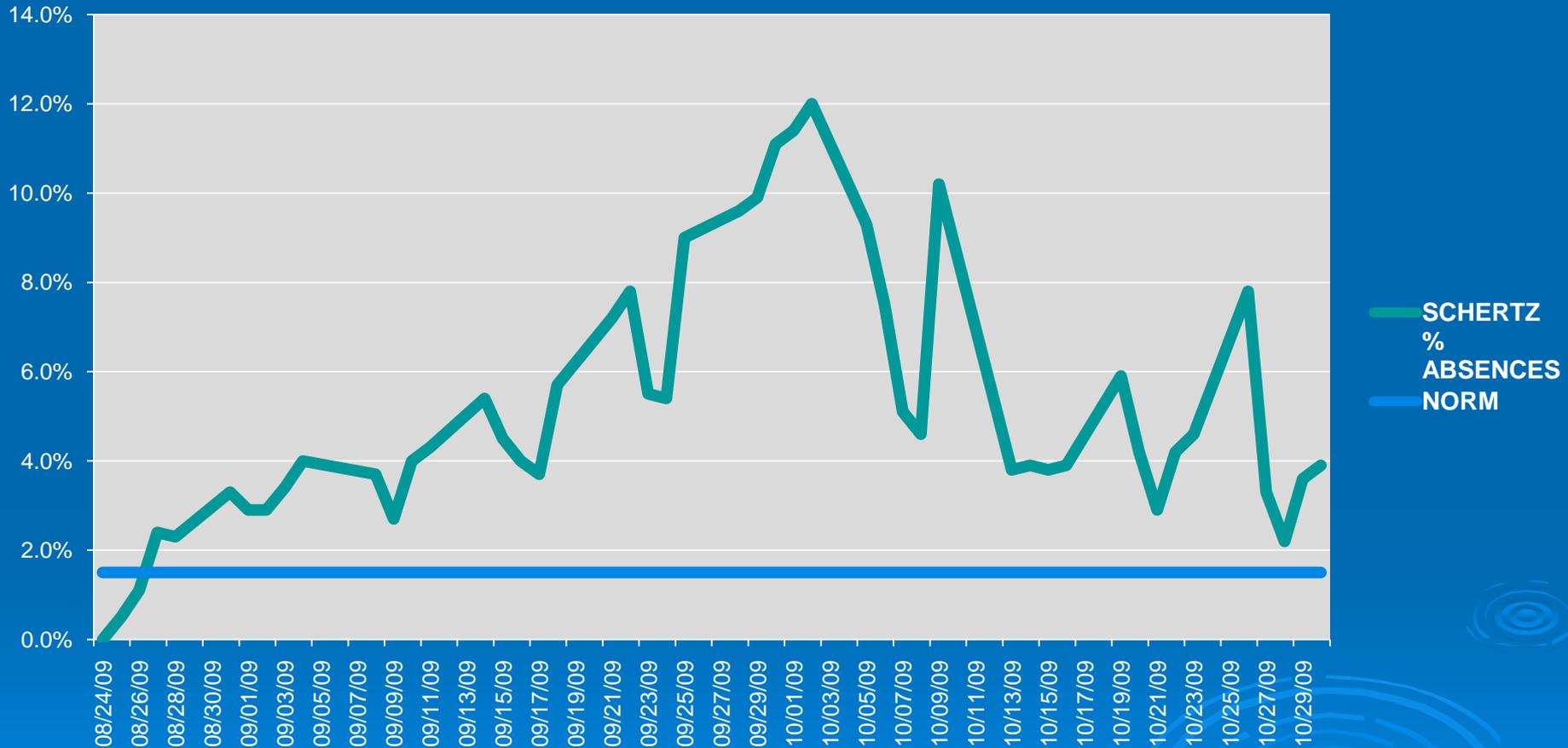
SIPPEL ELEMENTARY

Summary of Daily Absences



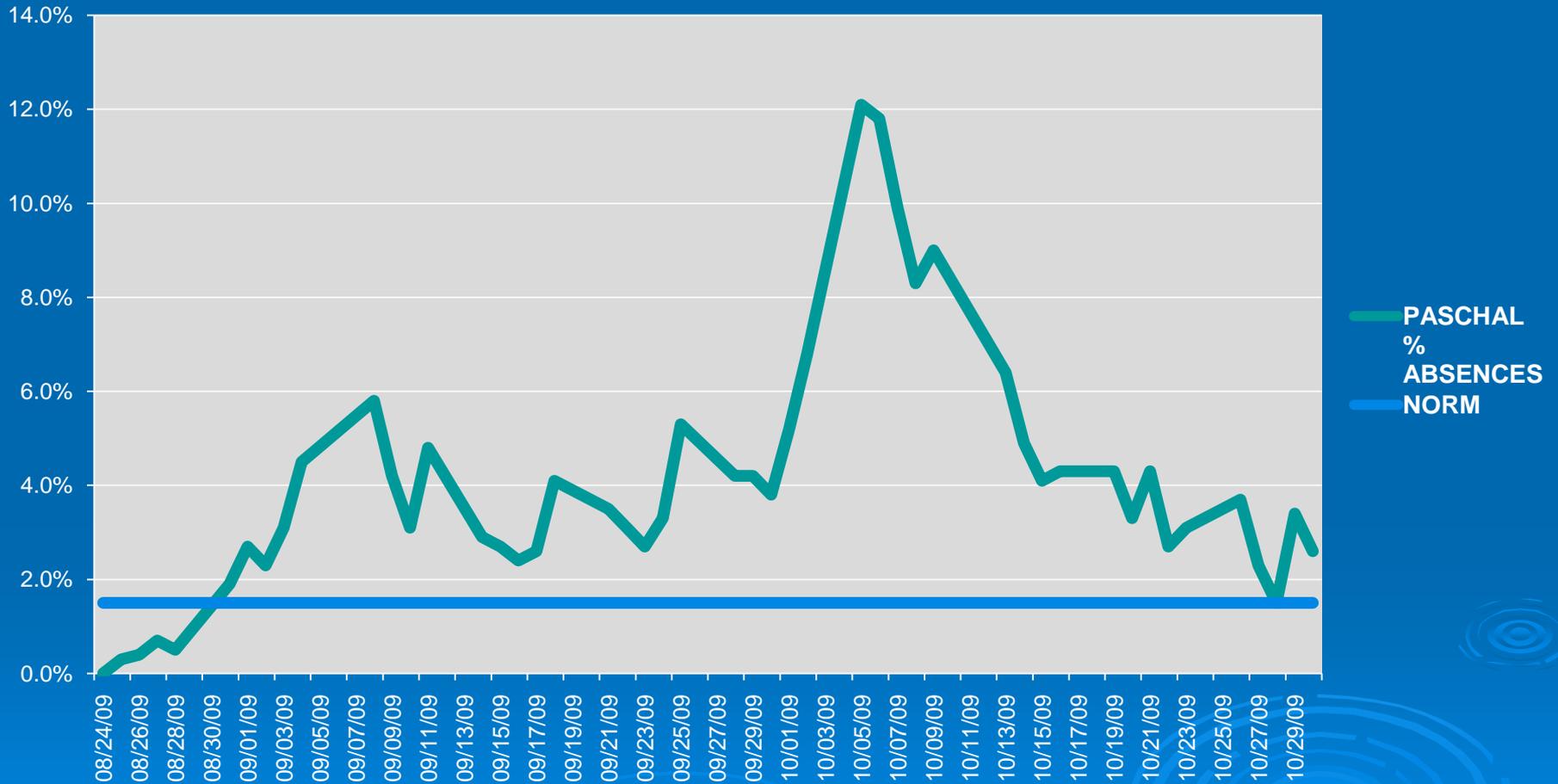
SCHERTZ ELEMENTARY

Summary of Daily Absences



PASCHAL ELEMENTARY

Summary of Daily Absences



THANK YOU!!!

For More Information Contact:

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