



# Panel 2: H1N1 Lessons Learned

Presentation for the

## Senate Committee on Health and Human Services

Senator Jane Nelson, Chair

Dr. Belinda Pustka

Retired Superintendent

Schertz-Cibolo-Universal City ISD



# 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.**

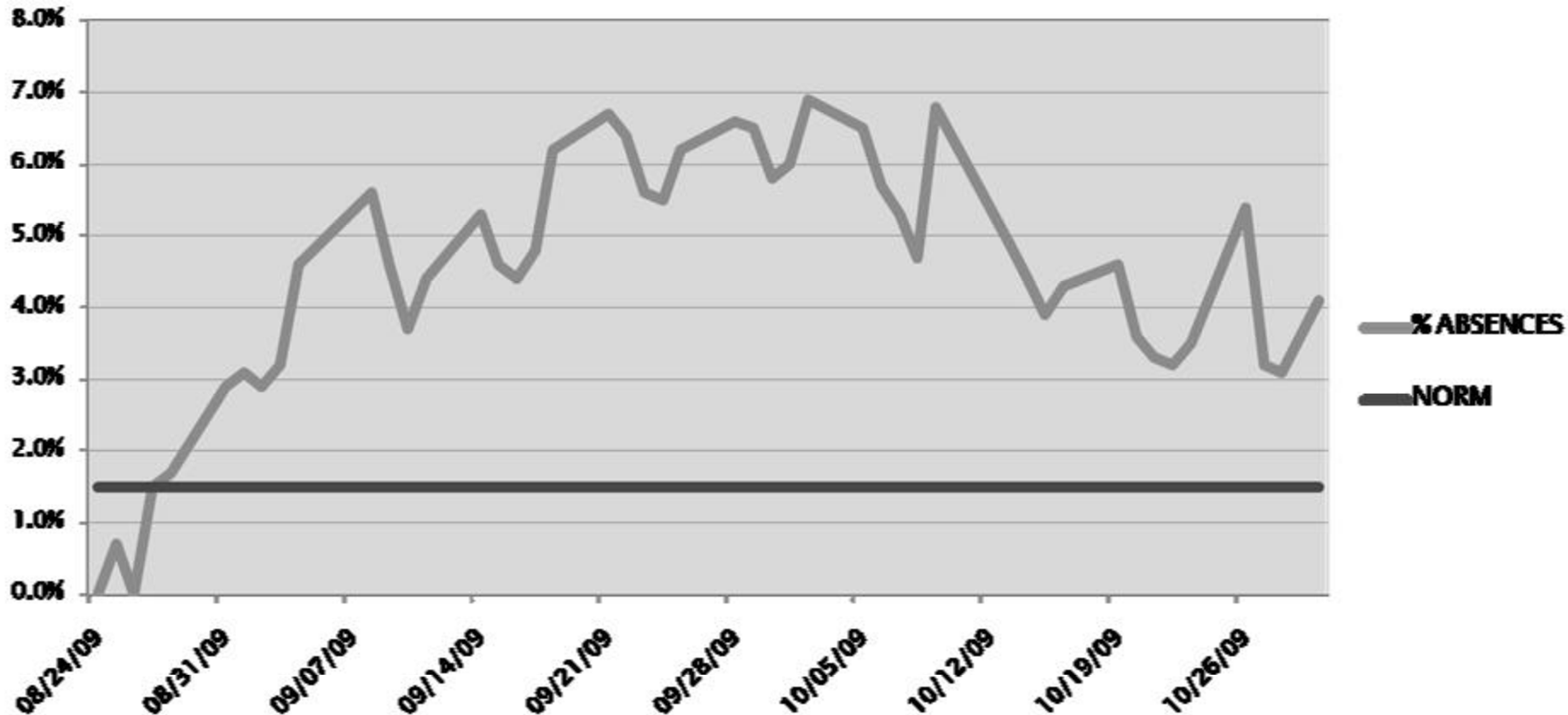


# **Attendance for 2009–2010 School Year**

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

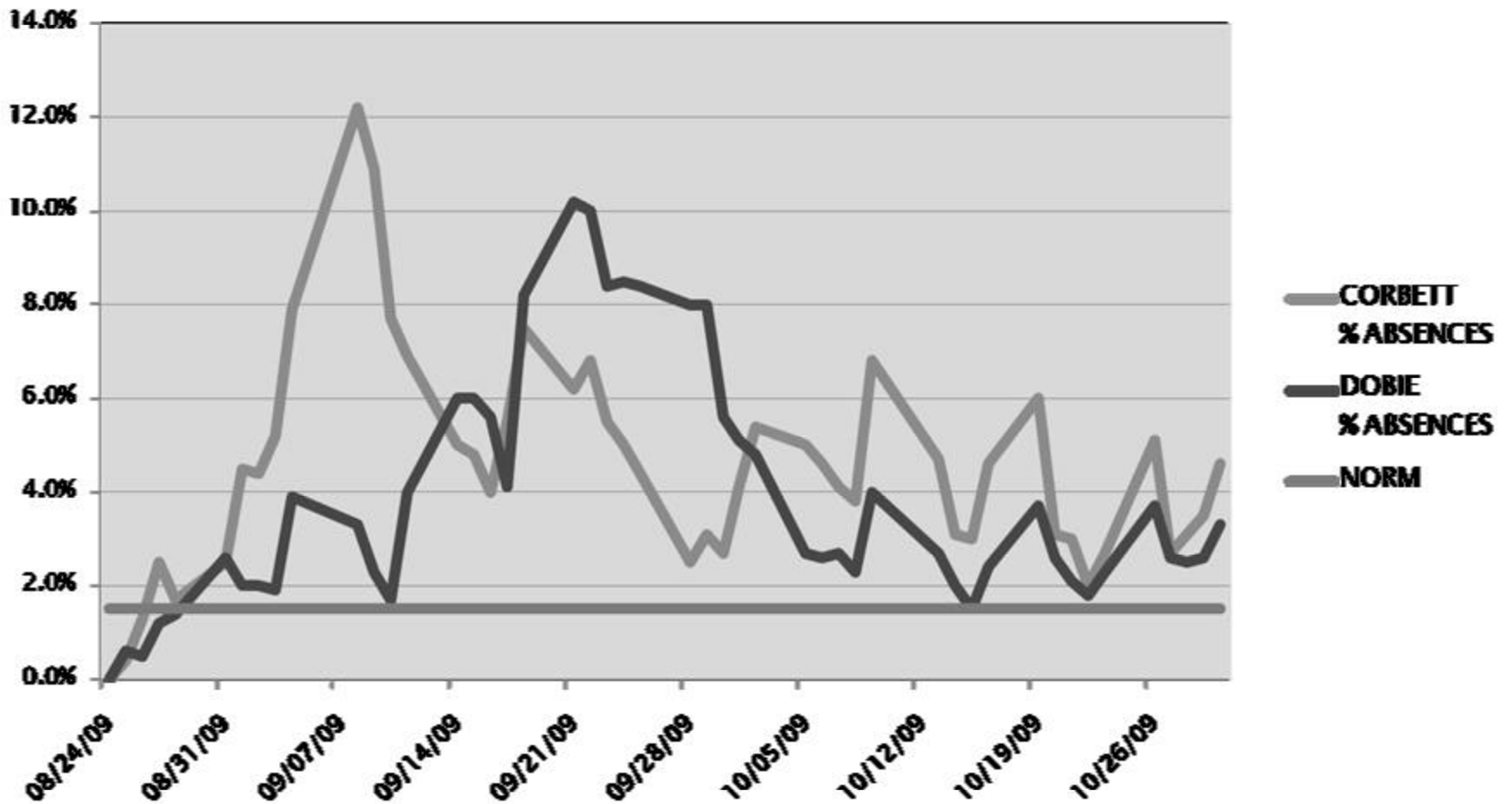


# SUMMARY OF DAILY ABSENCES 2009-2010 DISTRICT-WIDE



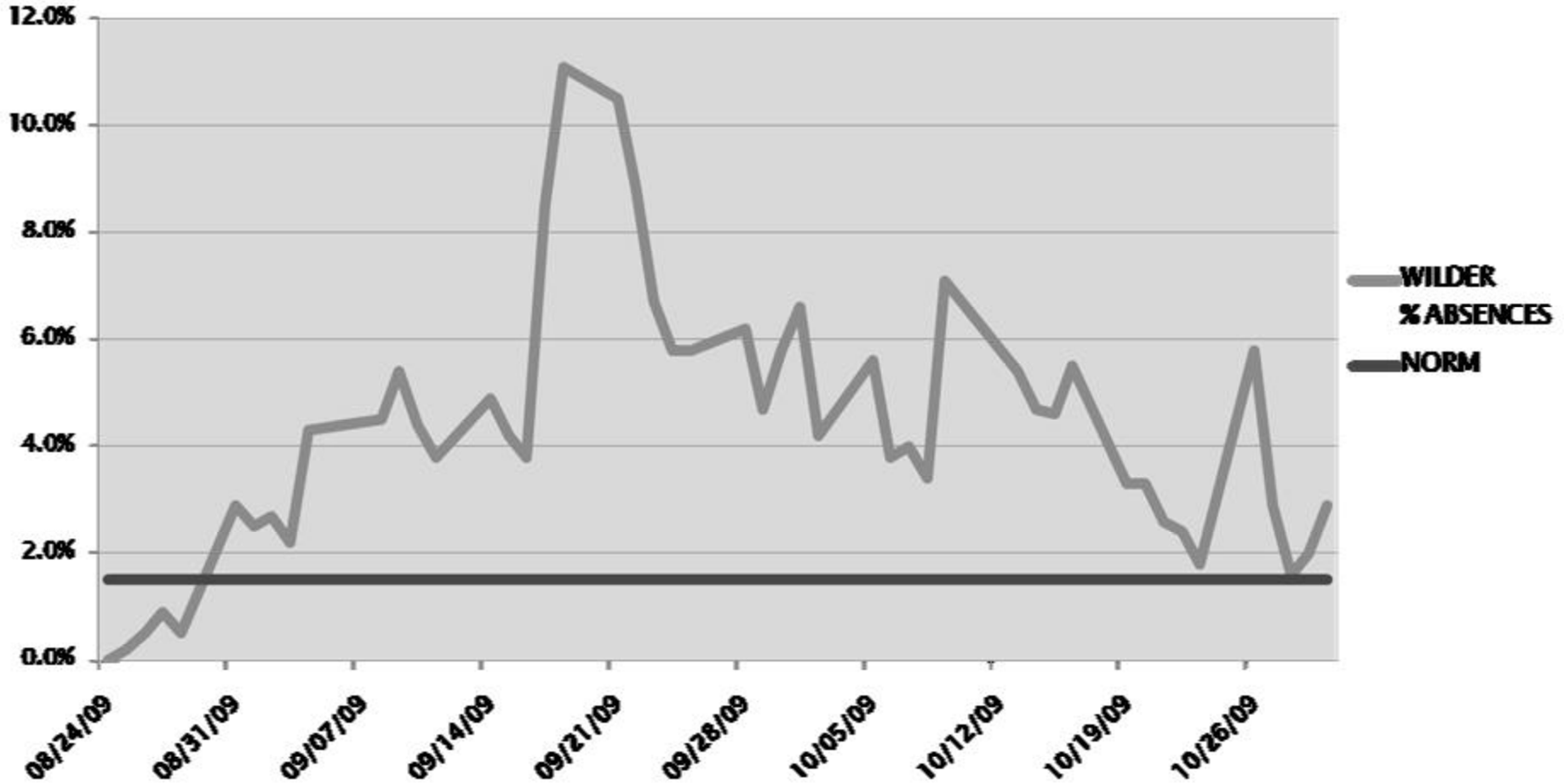
# CORBETT AND DOBIE JR. HIGH SCHOOLS

## Summary of Daily Absences



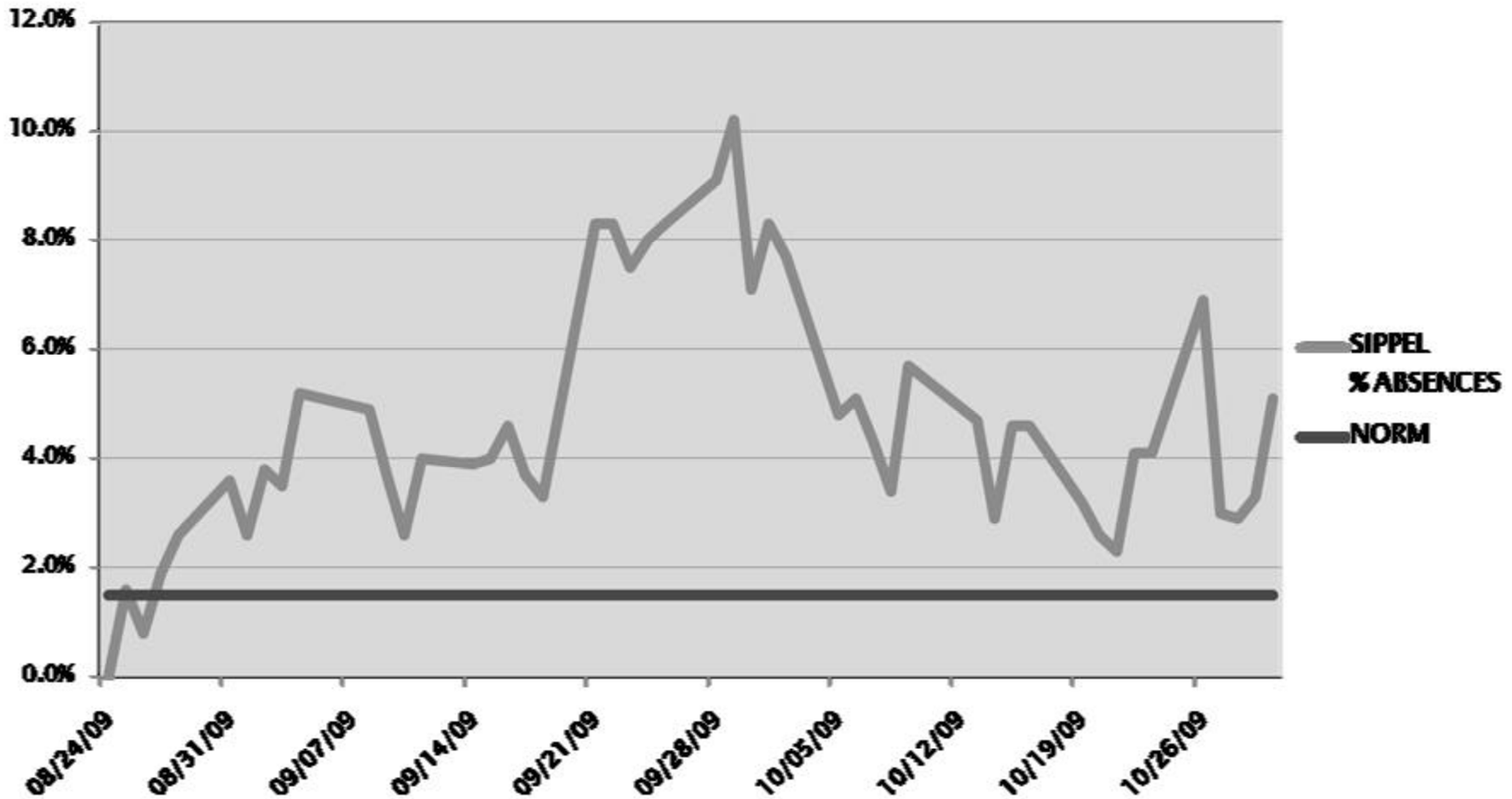
# WILDER INTERMEDIATE

## Summary of Daily Absences



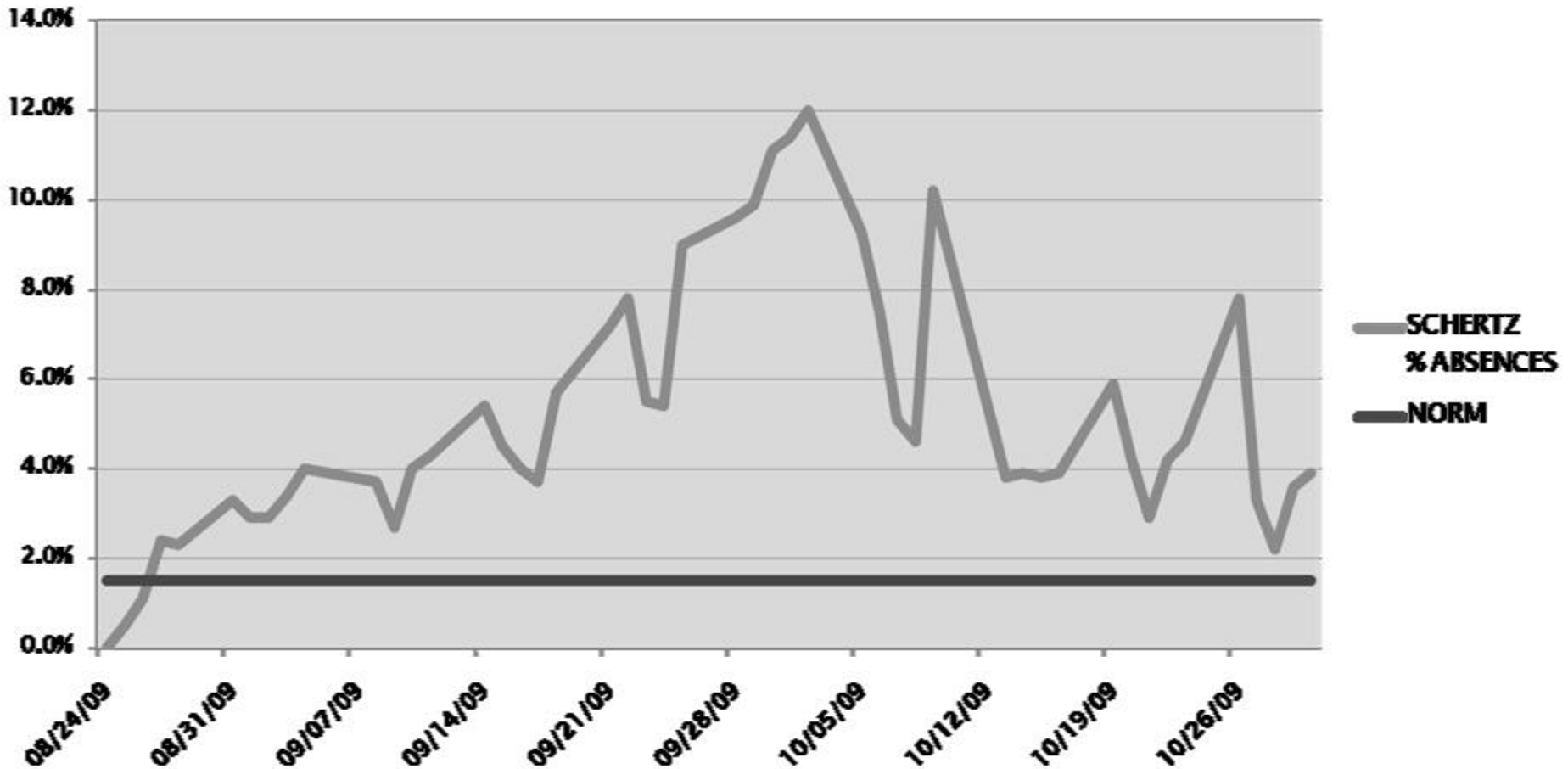
# SIPPEL ELEMENTARY

## Summary of Daily Absences



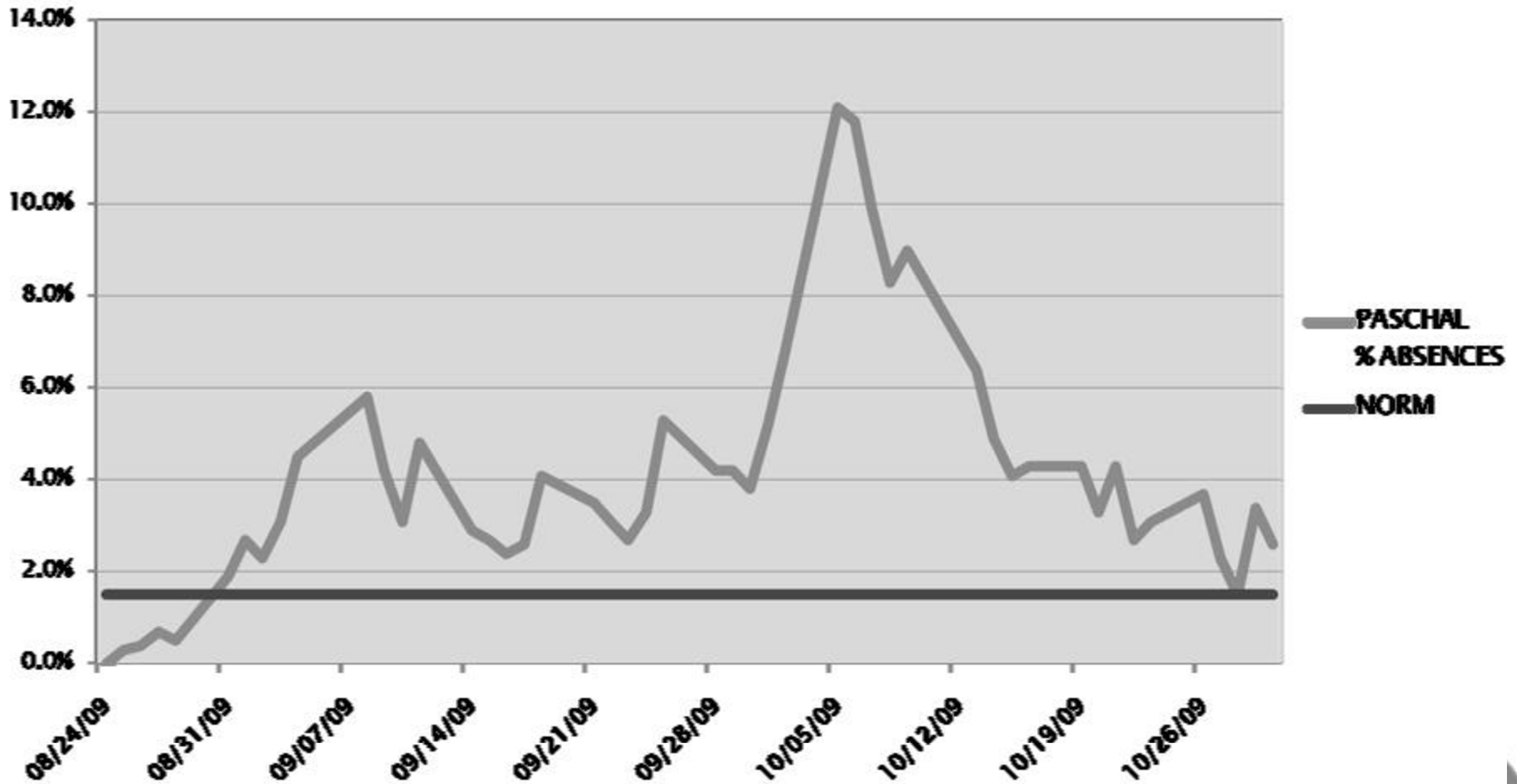
# SCHERTZ ELEMENTARY

## Summary of Daily Absences



# PASCHAL ELEMENTARY

## Summary of Daily Absences





# THANK YOU!!!

*For More Information Contact:*

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