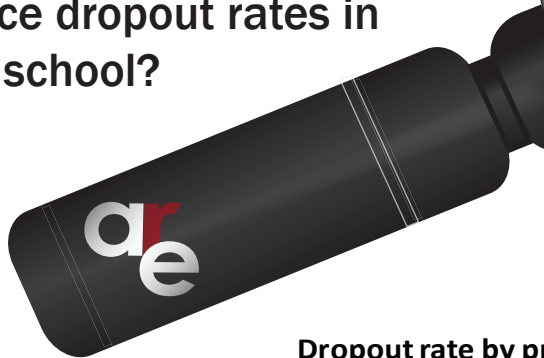


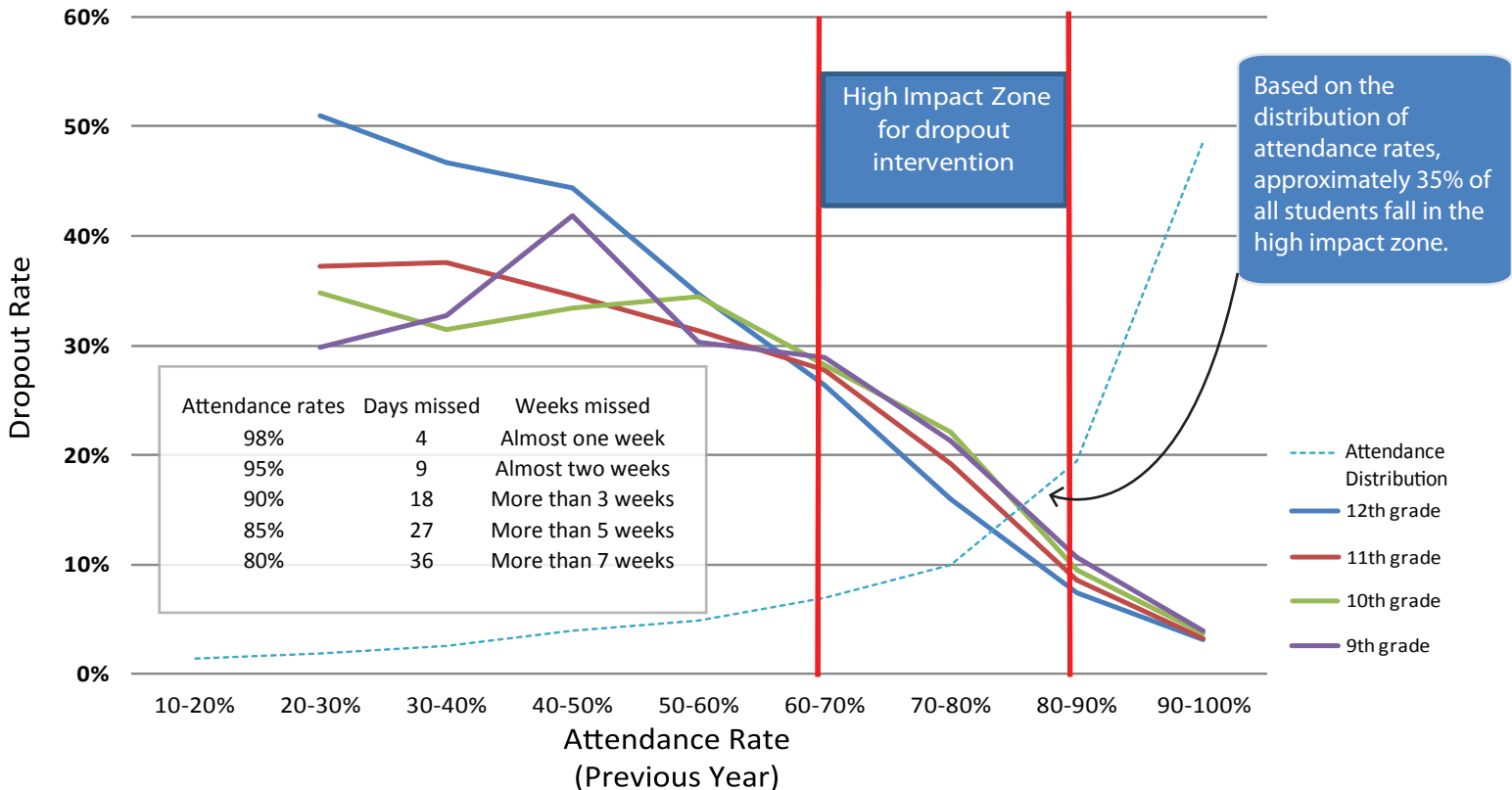
Answer: Very Likely.

There is a strong relationship between prior year attendance and the likelihood of dropping out. As attendance increases the dropout rate decreases. For students whose average attendance in the previous year was between 60% and 90%, a 10 percentage point increase in attendance is associated with about 10 percentage point decrease in dropout rate. Below the 60% threshold, improving attendance rates may have a smaller impact on dropout rates.

Question:
Does improved attendance reduce dropout rates in high school?



Dropout rate by prior year attendance



Note: Attendance and dropout data were compiled from multiple cohorts. Both excused and unexcused absences were included.

Recommendations*:

1. Set high attendance targets in elementary school to establish a healthy foundation.
2. Focus on students with attendance rates between 60% and 90% if intervention resources are limited.
3. Clearly define and carefully document attendance interventions in IC to help monitor the effectiveness of interventions.
4. Ensure that every student has a supportive relationship with at least one adult at school.

*The Virginia Department of Education has produced an excellent white paper summarizing research on school attendance and provides highly actionable suggestions for improving school attendance - <http://nnsdfsc.ou.edu/files/School%20Attendance%202005.pdf>