

## ATTENDANCE AND CHRONIC ABSENTEEISM

### **NEW: STUDENT ATTENDANCE PILOT** Laws 2024, Chapter 115, Article 1, Sec. 20

The Attendance Pilot Program will support schools in developing innovative strategies to improve attendance and to help policy makers determine how to promote best practices.

- The pilot program runs for three school years (2024-25, 2025-26, and 2026-27)
- Red Lake, a pilot participant, must collaborate with a nearby charter school Endazhi-Nitaawiging, to implement strategies to absenteeism at both the district and charter schools
- The following school districts are participants:
  - Minneapolis
  - Columbia Heights
  - Red Lake
  - Sauk Rapids
  - Cook County
  - Chisholm
  - Burnsville
  - Morehead
  - Mankato
  - Windom
  - Northfield
- Minneapolis is the lead district and must:
  - Convene virtual quarterly meetings for pilot participants to collaborate
  - Create a template for participants to share goals, policies, practices and progress on efforts to improve student attendance
  - Report to legislature on the progress of the group as a whole and include individual schools' reports
- Allowable uses for the pilot funds include:
  - Addressing risk factors for high absenteeism through supports and interventions
  - Strategies that focus on the individual needs of each student
  - Personalized outreach to students who have stopped attending school, such as home visits and connect with students in places outside of school

- Regular meetings with students to provide tutoring and other supports
- Activities that increase students' sense of belong in the school community
- Data analysis to assess the effectiveness of strategies
- Technology that assists schools' efforts to communicate with families

**NEW: STUDENT ATTENDANCE AND TRUANCY LEGISLATIVE STUDY GROUP** Laws  
**2024, Chapter 115, Article 1, Sec. 21**

The legislative study group, comprised of eight legislators from both parties, will study issues related to student attendance and absenteeism. The group must prepare recommendations and, in the process, consider the following:

- Current statutory requirements related to student attendance and truancy
- Currently available attendance data and additional data that would help schools and policy makers understand and reduce absenteeism
- The effect of school programs and strategies to improve attendance
- The role of school principals in addressing student absenteeism
- The role of MDE in addressing student absenteeism
- Role of counties in addressing truancy
- How truancy is tracked across county lines

The Study Group must consult with stakeholders, between the convening of it's first meeting (by July 15, 2024) and the release of its report (by December 31, 2024)

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**EFFECTIVE DATE – MAY 19, 2024**

**NEW: ATTENDANCE IMPROVEMENT NONPROFIT PARTNERSHIP** Laws 2024, Chapter 115, Article 1, Sec. 22 subd.3

The Minnesota Alliance with Youth is awarded a grant to fund the work of their Promise Fellows program. This grant fund is a onetime fund available through July, 2026.

The Promise Fellows program will facilitate partnerships between AmeriCorps members and schools (district and charter schools) to provide attendance and academic intervention services, including:

- Family and caregiver outreach and engagement
- Academic support
- Connection to out-of-school activities and resources
- Individual and small group mentoring designed to help students return to and maintain consistent school attendance

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**EFFECTIVE DATE – JULY 1, 2024**