

FLOOR AMENDMENT STATEMENT: Yes

LEGISLATIVE FISCAL ESTIMATE: Yes

VETO MESSAGE: No

GOVERNOR'S PRESS RELEASE ON SIGNING: Yes

FOLLOWING WERE PRINTED:

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REPORTS: No

HEARINGS: No

NEWSPAPER ARTICLES: No

RWH/JA

P.L. 2018, CHAPTER 23, *approved May 30, 2018*
Senate, No. 1876 (*First Reprint*)

1 AN ACT concerning student attendance records, amending
2 P.L.1995, c.235, and supplementing chapter 38 of the Title 18A
3 of the New Jersey Statutes.

4
5 **BE IT ENACTED** by the Senate and General Assembly of the State
6 of New Jersey:

7
8 1. Section 3 of P.L.1995, c.235 (C.18A:7E-3) is amended to read
9 as follows:

10 3. Report cards issued pursuant to section 2 of this act shall
11 include, but not be limited to, the following information for:

12 a. the school district and for each school within the district, as
13 appropriate:

14 (1) results of the elementary assessment programs;

15 (2) results of the Early Warning Test;

16 (3) results of the High School Proficiency Test;

17 (4) daily attendance records for students and professional staff;

18 (5) student graduation and dropout rates;

19 (6) annual student scores on the Scholastic Aptitude Test;

20 (7) total student enrollment, percentage of limited English
21 proficient students, percentage of students in advanced placement
22 courses, and any other school characteristics which the commissioner
23 deems appropriate;

24 (8) instructional resources including teacher/student ratio, average
25 class size and amount of instructional time per day, as calculated by
26 formulas specified by the commissioner;

27 (9) a written narrative by the school principal or a designee which
28 describes any special achievements, events, problems or initiatives of
29 the school or district;

30 (10) data identifying the number and nature of all reports of
31 harassment, intimidation, or bullying; **[and]**

32 (11) indicators of student career readiness;

33 (12) the number and percentage of students who were chronically
34 absent, as defined in rules and regulations promulgated by the
35 Commissioner of Education within 90 days of the effective date of
36 P.L. _____, c. (C. _____) (pending before the Legislature as this bill) ¹,
37 including the number and percentage of students who were chronically
38 absent disaggregated by multiple student subgroups to be determined
39 by the commissioner¹ ; and

EXPLANATION – Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets **[thus]** in the above bill is not enacted and is intended to be omitted in the law.

Matter underlined **thus** is new matter.

Matter enclosed in superscript numerals has been adopted as follows:

¹Senate floor amendments adopted March 26, 2018.

- 1 (13) the number and percentage of students who received a
2 disciplinary suspension; and
3 b. the school district, as appropriate:
4 (1) per pupil expenditures and State aid ratio;
5 (2) percent of budget allocated for salaries and benefits of
6 administrative personnel;
7 (3) percent of budget allocated for salaries and benefits of
8 teachers;
9 (4) percentage increase over the previous year for salaries and
10 benefits of administrative and instructional personnel;
11 (5) the number of administrative personnel and the ratio of
12 administrative personnel to instructional personnel;
13 (6) a profile of the most recent graduating class concerning their
14 educational or employment plans following graduation; and
15 (7) any other information which the commissioner deems
16 appropriate.

17 For the purposes of this section, the Commissioner of Education
18 shall establish a uniform methodology for the reporting of the data
19 concerning administrative personnel on a full-time equivalent basis.
20 (cf: P.L.2014, c.71)

21
22 2. (New section) a. As used in this section, “chronically absent”
23 shall be defined in rules and regulations promulgated by the
24 Commissioner of Education within 90 days of the effective date of
25 P.L. , c. (C.) (pending before the Legislature as this bill).

26 b. In the event that 10 percent or more of the students enrolled in
27 a public school are chronically absent, the school shall develop a
28 corrective action plan to improve absenteeism rates. The corrective
29 action plan shall include, but need not be limited to, the following:

- 30 (1) identifying problems and barriers to school attendance;
31 (2) developing recommendations to address the problems and
32 barriers to school attendance that have been identified;
33 (3) outlining communication strategies to educate and inform
34 parents on the importance of school attendance;
35 (4) establishing protocols on informing and engaging parents
36 when a child begins to show a pattern of absences; and
37 (5) reviewing school policies to ensure that they support improved
38 school attendance.

39 In developing the corrective action plan, the school shall solicit
40 input from parents of students currently attending the school. The
41 solicitation shall include, at a minimum, a parental survey that includes
42 questions related to parents’ beliefs regarding the reasons why students
43 are chronically absent and recommendations on the best ways to
44 improve attendance. In developing the corrective action plan, the
45 school shall engage the school’s parent organization, if one exists, in
46 identifying the causes of the school’s high absenteeism rate and
47 possible solutions. If there is no parent organization at the school, the
48 school shall hold a public meeting to provide parents with an

1 opportunity to provide input during the development of the corrective
2 action plan.

3 c. The school shall present the corrective action plan to the board
4 of education. The school shall annually review and revise the
5 corrective action plan, and present the revisions to the board, until the
6 percent of students who are chronically absent is less than 10 percent.

7
8 3. (New section) The Commissioner of Education shall
9 annually review the chronic absenteeism rates of each school and
10 school district, as included on the School Report Cards issued
11 pursuant to section 2 of P.L.1995, c.235 (C.18A:7E-2), and report
12 on the rates to the State Board of Education.

13
14 4. This act shall take effect immediately.

15

16

17

18

19 _____
20 Requires Commissioner of Education to include data on chronic
21 absenteeism and disciplinary suspensions on School Report Card
22 and requires public schools to make certain efforts to combat
chronic absenteeism.

SENATE, No. 1876

STATE OF NEW JERSEY
218th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED FEBRUARY 15, 2018

Sponsored by:

Senator M. TERESA RUIZ

District 29 (Essex)

Senator KRISTIN M. CORRADO

District 40 (Bergen, Essex, Morris and Passaic)

Co-Sponsored by:

Senators Singleton and Turner

SYNOPSIS

Requires Commissioner of Education to include data on chronic absenteeism and disciplinary suspensions on School Report Card and requires public schools to make certain efforts to combat chronic absenteeism.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 3/27/2018)

S1876 RUIZ, CORRADO

2

1 AN ACT concerning student attendance records, amending
2 P.L.1995, c.235, and supplementing chapter 38 of the Title 18A
3 of the New Jersey Statutes.

4
5 **BE IT ENACTED** by the Senate and General Assembly of the State
6 of New Jersey:

7
8 1. Section 3 of P.L.1995, c.235 (C.18A:7E-3) is amended to read
9 as follows:

10 3. Report cards issued pursuant to section 2 of this act shall
11 include, but not be limited to, the following information for:

12 a. the school district and for each school within the district, as
13 appropriate:

14 (1) results of the elementary assessment programs;

15 (2) results of the Early Warning Test;

16 (3) results of the High School Proficiency Test;

17 (4) daily attendance records for students and professional staff;

18 (5) student graduation and dropout rates;

19 (6) annual student scores on the Scholastic Aptitude Test;

20 (7) total student enrollment, percentage of limited English
21 proficient students, percentage of students in advanced placement
22 courses, and any other school characteristics which the commissioner
23 deems appropriate;

24 (8) instructional resources including teacher/student ratio, average
25 class size and amount of instructional time per day, as calculated by
26 formulas specified by the commissioner;

27 (9) a written narrative by the school principal or a designee which
28 describes any special achievements, events, problems or initiatives of
29 the school or district;

30 (10) data identifying the number and nature of all reports of
31 harassment, intimidation, or bullying; **[and]**

32 (11) indicators of student career readiness;

33 (12) the number and percentage of students who were chronically
34 absent, as defined in rules and regulations promulgated by the
35 Commissioner of Education within 90 days of the effective date of
36 P.L. , c. (C.) (pending before the Legislature as this bill) ; and

37 (13) the number and percentage of students who received a
38 disciplinary suspension; and

39 b. the school district, as appropriate:

40 (1) per pupil expenditures and State aid ratio;

41 (2) percent of budget allocated for salaries and benefits of
42 administrative personnel;

43 (3) percent of budget allocated for salaries and benefits of
44 teachers;

EXPLANATION – Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets **[thus] in the above bill is not enacted and is intended to be omitted in the law.**

Matter underlined thus is new matter.

1 (4) percentage increase over the previous year for salaries and
2 benefits of administrative and instructional personnel;

3 (5) the number of administrative personnel and the ratio of
4 administrative personnel to instructional personnel;

5 (6) a profile of the most recent graduating class concerning their
6 educational or employment plans following graduation; and

7 (7) any other information which the commissioner deems
8 appropriate.

9 For the purposes of this section, the Commissioner of Education
10 shall establish a uniform methodology for the reporting of the data
11 concerning administrative personnel on a full-time equivalent basis.

12 (cf: P.L.2014, c.71)

13

14 2. (New section) a. As used in this section, “chronically absent”
15 shall be defined in rules and regulations promulgated by the
16 Commissioner of Education within 90 days of the effective date of
17 P.L. , c. (C.) (pending before the Legislature as this bill).

18 b. In the event that 10 percent or more of the students enrolled in
19 a public school are chronically absent, the school shall develop a
20 corrective action plan to improve absenteeism rates. The corrective
21 action plan shall include, but need not be limited to, the following:

22 (1) identifying problems and barriers to school attendance;

23 (2) developing recommendations to address the problems and
24 barriers to school attendance that have been identified;

25 (3) outlining communication strategies to educate and inform
26 parents on the importance of school attendance;

27 (4) establishing protocols on informing and engaging parents
28 when a child begins to show a pattern of absences; and

29 (5) reviewing school policies to ensure that they support improved
30 school attendance.

31 In developing the corrective action plan, the school shall solicit
32 input from parents of students currently attending the school. The
33 solicitation shall include, at a minimum, a parental survey that includes
34 questions related to parents’ beliefs regarding the reasons why students
35 are chronically absent and recommendations on the best ways to
36 improve attendance. In developing the corrective action plan, the
37 school shall engage the school’s parent organization, if one exists, in
38 identifying the causes of the school’s high absenteeism rate and
39 possible solutions. If there is no parent organization at the school, the
40 school shall hold a public meeting to provide parents with an
41 opportunity to provide input during the development of the corrective
42 action plan.

43 c. The school shall present the corrective action plan to the board
44 of education. The school shall annually review and revise the
45 corrective action plan, and present the revisions to the board, until the
46 percent of students who are chronically absent is less than 10 percent.

SENATE BUDGET AND APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

SENATE, No. 1876

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: MARCH 5, 2018

The Senate Budget and Appropriations Committee reports favorably Senate Bill No. 1876.

This bill requires public schools, in which 10 percent or more of the students enrolled are chronically absent, to work with parents and the school's parent organization to develop a corrective action plan to improve absenteeism rates

Specifically, if 10 percent or more of the students enrolled in a public school are chronically absent, the bill requires the school to develop a corrective action plan to improve absenteeism rates. The plan will include, but not be limited to, the following: (1) identify problems and barriers to school attendance; (2) develop recommendations to address those problems and barriers; (3) outline communication strategies to educate parents on the importance of school attendance; (4) establish protocols to inform and engage parents when a child begins to show a pattern of absences; and (5) review school policies to ensure that they support improved school attendance. In developing a corrective action plan, the bill requires the school to solicit input from parents through multiple means, including through the administration of a survey, engaging with the school's parent organization, and, if the school does not have a parent organization, holding a public meeting to provide parents with the opportunity to provide input. The bill requires the school to present its corrective action plan to the board of education. The school must annually review and revise the plan and present the revisions to the board, until the percent of students who are chronically absent falls below 10 percent.

In addition, the bill requires the Commissioner of Education to include data on the number and percentage of students who were chronically absent and the number and percentage of students who received a disciplinary suspension on School Report Cards. The commissioner is directed to review the chronic absenteeism rates of each school and school district annually and report on the rates to the State Board of Education.

The term "chronically absent," as used in the bill, will be defined pursuant to rules and regulations promulgated by the Commissioner of Education within 90 days after the date of enactment of the bill.

FISCAL IMPACT:

The Office of Legislative Services estimates that this bill will not lead to a change in State expenditures. The current School Performance Report already includes data related to student suspensions and chronic absenteeism.

This bill may result in an indeterminate increase in a school district's expenditures if, in at least one school in the district, 10 percent or more of the students are considered chronically absent, thereby triggering the development of a corrective action plan. This potential cost would be contingent on the strategy implemented by the school, such as less costly options (*e.g.*, increased communication and outreach) to potentially more expensive options (*e.g.*, hiring additional attendance officers). Based on data included in the School Performance Report for the 2015-16 school year, nearly one-third of schools had at least 10 percent of students who were classified as chronically absent (meaning, absent for at least 10 percent of the days that a student is enrolled in a the school).

SENATE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

SENATE, No. 1876

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: FEBRUARY 22, 2018

The Senate Education Committee favorably reports Senate Bill No. 1876.

This bill requires that, if 10 percent or more of the students enrolled in a public school are chronically absent, the school must develop a corrective action plan to improve absenteeism rates. The bill requires that the plan include, but need not be limited to: (1) identifying problems and barriers to school attendance; (2) developing recommendations to address those problems and barriers; (3) outlining communication strategies to educate parents on the importance of school attendance; (4) establishing protocols on informing and engaging parents when a child begins to show a pattern of absences; and (5) reviewing school policies to ensure that they support improved school attendance. The bill requires that in developing the corrective action plan, the school must solicit input from parents through multiple means, including through the administration of a survey, engaging with the school's parent organization, and, if the school does not have a parent organization, holding a public meeting to provide parents with the opportunity to provide input. The bill requires the school to present its corrective action plan to the board of education. The school would annually review and revise the plan, and present the revisions to the board, until the percent of students who are chronically absent is less than 10 percent.

The bill also requires the Commissioner of Education to include on School Report Cards data on the number and percentage of students who were chronically absent and the number and percentage of students who received a disciplinary suspension. The bill directs the commissioner to review the chronic absenteeism rates of each school and school district annually, and report on the rates to the State Board of Education.

The term "chronically absent," as used in the bill, will be defined pursuant to rules and regulations promulgated by the Commissioner of Education within 90 days after enactment.

STATEMENT TO
SENATE, No. 1876

with Senate Floor Amendments
(Proposed by Senator RUIZ)

ADOPTED: MARCH 26, 2018

This floor amendment requires that School Report Cards include data on the number and percentage of students who were chronically absent disaggregated by multiple student subgroups to be determined by the Commissioner of Education.

LEGISLATIVE FISCAL ESTIMATE
SENATE, No. 1876
STATE OF NEW JERSEY
218th LEGISLATURE

DATED: MARCH 9, 2018

SUMMARY

- Synopsis:** Requires Commissioner of Education to include data on chronic absenteeism and disciplinary suspensions on School Report Card and requires public schools to make certain efforts to combat chronic absenteeism.
- Type of Impact:** Expenditure Increase
- Agencies Affected:** Department of Education; School Districts

Office of Legislative Services Estimate

Fiscal Impact	<u>Year 1</u>	<u>Year 2</u>	<u>Year 3</u>
State Cost		No Change	
Local Cost		Indeterminate Increase	

- The Office of Legislative Services anticipates that Senate Bill No. 1876 will not lead to an increase in State expenditures. The Department of Education’s School Performance Report, the successor to the School Report Card required pursuant to P.L.1995, c.235 (C.18A:7E-1 et seq.), currently includes information on chronic absenteeism and suspensions.
- A school district may incur increased expenditures under the bill if at least 10 percent of the students enrolled in at least one of the district’s schools are deemed “chronically absent.” If this occurs, the school would be required to develop a corrective action plan to address absenteeism. A school district may incur expenditures as a result of implementing the corrective action plan.

BILL DESCRIPTION

This bill stipulates that the annual School Report Card, which is required pursuant to P.L.1995, c.235 (C.18A:7E-1 et seq.), must include data on the number and percent of students who were “chronically absent,” as defined by regulations to be promulgated by the Commissioner of Education, and number and percent of students who received a disciplinary suspension. If at least 10 percent of the students in a school are deemed chronically absent, then

the school would be required to develop a corrective action plan to address the absenteeism. In developing the plan, the school would solicit input from parents of students enrolled in the school, and would present the corrective action plan to the district board of education. The school would be required to revise and submit the report to the board annually until the percent of students who are deemed chronically absent is less than 10 percent.

FISCAL ANALYSIS

EXECUTIVE BRANCH

None received.

OFFICE OF LEGISLATIVE SERVICES

The Office of Legislative Services anticipates that this bill will not lead to a change in State expenditures. Currently, the School Performance Report, the successor to the School Report Card required pursuant to P.L.1995, c.235 (C.18A:7E-1 et seq.), includes data related to student suspensions and chronic absenteeism.

The legislation may result in an indeterminate increase in a school district's expenditures if, in at least one school in the district, 10 percent or more of the students were considered chronically absent, thereby triggering the development of a corrective action plan. The potential cost would be contingent on the strategies implemented by a school, such as less costly options (e.g., increased communication and outreach) to potentially more expensive strategies (such as hiring additional attendance officers).

Based on data included in the School Performance Report for the 2016-2017 school year, nearly one-third of schools had at least 10 percent of students who were classified as chronically absent.¹

Section: Education
Analyst: Allen T. Dupree
Principal Fiscal Analyst
Approved: Frank W. Haines III
Legislative Budget and Finance Officer

This fiscal estimate has been prepared pursuant to P.L.1980, c.67 (C.52:13B-6 et seq.).

¹ The School Performance Reports define chronically absent as being absent for at least 10 percent of the days that a student is enrolled in a school.

ASSEMBLY, No. 2192

STATE OF NEW JERSEY 218th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED JANUARY 29, 2018

Sponsored by:

Assemblywoman VALERIE VAINIERI HUTTLE

District 37 (Bergen)

Assemblyman RALPH R. CAPUTO

District 28 (Essex)

Assemblywoman MILA M. JASEY

District 27 (Essex and Morris)

Co-Sponsored by:

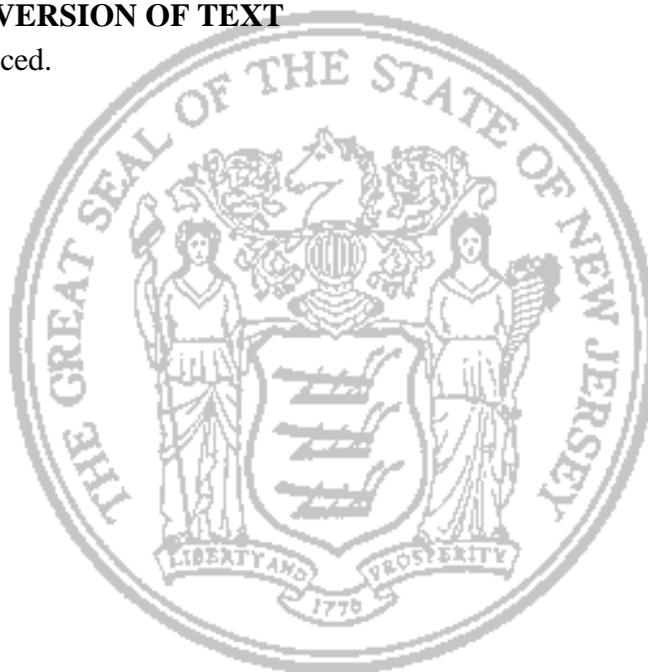
Assemblyman Johnson, Assemblywomen Murphy, Mosquera and Pinkin

SYNOPSIS

Requires Commissioner of Education to include data on chronic absenteeism and disciplinary suspensions on School Report Card and requires public schools to make certain efforts to combat chronic absenteeism.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 3/27/2018)

A2192 VAINIERI HUTTLE, CAPUTO

2

1 AN ACT concerning student attendance records, amending
2 P.L.1995, c.235, and supplementing chapter 38 of Title 18A of
3 the New Jersey Statutes.

4
5 **BE IT ENACTED** by the Senate and General Assembly of the State
6 of New Jersey:

7
8 1. Section 3 of P.L.1995, c.235 (C.18A:7E-3) is amended to read
9 as follows:

10 3. Report cards issued pursuant to section 2 of this act shall
11 include, but not be limited to, the following information for:

12 a. the school district and for each school within the district, as
13 appropriate:

14 (1) results of the elementary assessment programs;

15 (2) results of the Early Warning Test;

16 (3) results of the High School Proficiency Test;

17 (4) daily attendance records for students and professional staff;

18 (5) student graduation and dropout rates;

19 (6) annual student scores on the Scholastic Aptitude Test;

20 (7) total student enrollment, percentage of limited English
21 proficient students, percentage of students in advanced placement
22 courses, and any other school characteristics which the commissioner
23 deems appropriate;

24 (8) instructional resources including teacher/student ratio, average
25 class size and amount of instructional time per day, as calculated by
26 formulas specified by the commissioner;

27 (9) a written narrative by the school principal or a designee which
28 describes any special achievements, events, problems or initiatives of
29 the school or district;

30 (10) data identifying the number and nature of all reports of
31 harassment, intimidation, or bullying; **[and]**

32 (11) indicators of student career readiness;

33 (12) the number and percentage of students who were chronically
34 absent, as defined in rules and regulations promulgated by the
35 Commissioner of Education within 90 days of the effective date of
36 P.L. , c. (C.) (pending before the Legislature as this bill) ; and

37 (13) the number and percentage of students who received a
38 disciplinary suspension; and

39 b. the school district, as appropriate:

40 (1) per pupil expenditures and State aid ratio;

41 (2) percent of budget allocated for salaries and benefits of
42 administrative personnel;

43 (3) percent of budget allocated for salaries and benefits of
44 teachers;

EXPLANATION – Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets **[thus] in the above bill is not enacted and is intended to be omitted in the law.**

Matter underlined thus is new matter.

1 (4) percentage increase over the previous year for salaries and
2 benefits of administrative and instructional personnel;

3 (5) the number of administrative personnel and the ratio of
4 administrative personnel to instructional personnel;

5 (6) a profile of the most recent graduating class concerning their
6 educational or employment plans following graduation; and

7 (7) any other information which the commissioner deems
8 appropriate.

9 For the purposes of this section, the Commissioner of Education
10 shall establish a uniform methodology for the reporting of the data
11 concerning administrative personnel on a full-time equivalent basis.

12 (cf: P.L.2014, c.71)

13

14 2. (New section) a. As used in this section, “chronically absent”
15 shall be defined in rules and regulations promulgated by the
16 Commissioner of Education within 90 days of the effective date of
17 P.L. , c. (C.) (pending before the Legislature as this bill).

18 b. In the event that 10 percent or more of the students enrolled in
19 a public school are chronically absent, the school shall develop a
20 corrective action plan to improve absenteeism rates. The corrective
21 action plan shall include, but need not be limited to, the following:

22 (1) identifying problems and barriers to school attendance;

23 (2) developing recommendations to address the problems and
24 barriers to school attendance that have been identified;

25 (3) outlining communication strategies to educate and inform
26 parents on the importance of school attendance;

27 (4) establishing protocols on informing and engaging parents when
28 a child begins to show a pattern of absences; and

29 (5) reviewing school policies to ensure that they support improved
30 school attendance.

31 In developing the corrective action plan, the school shall solicit
32 input from parents of students currently attending the school. The
33 solicitation shall include, at a minimum, a parental survey that includes
34 questions related to parents’ beliefs regarding the reasons why students
35 are chronically absent and recommendations on the best ways to
36 improve attendance. In developing the corrective action plan, the
37 school shall engage the school’s parent organization, if one exists, in
38 identifying the causes of the school’s high absenteeism rate and
39 possible solutions. If there is no parent organization at the school, the
40 school shall hold a public meeting to provide parents with an
41 opportunity to provide input during the development of the corrective
42 action plan.

43 c. The school shall present the corrective action plan to the board
44 of education. The school shall annually review and revise the
45 corrective action plan, and present the revisions to the board, until the
46 percent of students who are chronically absent is less than 10 percent.

ASSEMBLY APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

ASSEMBLY, No. 2192

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: MARCH 22, 2018

The Assembly Appropriations Committee reports favorably Assembly Bill No. 2192.

This bill requires public schools to develop a corrective action plan to improve absenteeism rates if 10 percent or more of the students enrolled in the school are chronically absent.

The bill requires that the corrective action plan: (1) identify problems and barriers to school attendance; (2) develop recommendations to address those problems and barriers; (3) outline communication strategies to educate parents on the importance of school attendance; (4) establish protocols on informing and engaging parents when a child begins to show a pattern of absences; and (5) review school policies to ensure that they support improved school attendance. In developing the corrective action plan, the school must solicit input from parents through multiple means, including through the administration of a survey, engagement with the school's parent organization, and, if the school does not have a parent organization, by holding a public meeting to provide parents with the opportunity to provide input. The bill requires the school to present its corrective action plan to the board of education. The bill requires that the school annually review and revise the plan, and present any revisions to the board, until the percent of students who are chronically absent is less than 10 percent.

Additionally, the bill requires the Commissioner of Education to include on School Report Cards data on the number and percentage of students who were chronically absent and the number and percentage of students who received a disciplinary suspension. The bill directs the commissioner to review the chronic absenteeism rates of each school and school district annually, and report on the rates to the State Board of Education.

The term "chronically absent," as used in the bill, will be defined pursuant to rules and regulations promulgated by the Commissioner of Education within 90 days after the bill's enactment.

FISCAL IMPACT:

The Office of Legislative Services estimates that this bill will not lead to a change in State expenditures. The current School Performance Report already includes data related to student suspensions and chronic absenteeism.

This bill may result in an indeterminate increase in a school district's expenditures if, in at least one school in the district, 10 percent or more of the students are considered chronically absent, thereby triggering the development of a corrective action plan. The potential cost would be contingent on the strategy implemented by the school, such as less costly options (*e.g.*, increased communication and outreach) to potentially more expensive options (*e.g.*, hiring additional attendance officers).

Based on data included in the School Performance Report for the 2015-2016 school year, nearly one-third of schools had at least 10 percent of their students classified as chronically absent. The School Performance Report defines chronically absent as being absent for at least 10 percent of the days that a student is enrolled in a school.

ASSEMBLY EDUCATION COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

ASSEMBLY, No. 2192

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: FEBRUARY 1, 2018

The Assembly Education Committee reports favorably Assembly Bill No. 2192.

This bill requires that, if 10 percent or more of the students enrolled in a public school are chronically absent, the school must develop a corrective action plan to improve absenteeism rates. The bill requires that the plan include, but need not be limited to: (1) identifying problems and barriers to school attendance; (2) developing recommendations to address those problems and barriers; (3) outlining communication strategies to educate parents on the importance of school attendance; (4) establishing protocols on informing and engaging parents when a child begins to show a pattern of absences; and (5) reviewing school policies to ensure that they support improved school attendance. The bill requires that in developing the corrective action plan, the school must solicit input from parents through multiple means, including through the administration of a survey, engaging with the school's parent organization, and, if the school does not have a parent organization, holding a public meeting to provide parents with the opportunity to provide input. The bill requires the school to present its corrective action plan to the board of education. The school would annually review and revise the plan, and present the revisions to the board, until the percent of students who are chronically absent is less than 10 percent.

The bill also requires the Commissioner of Education to include on School Report Cards data on the number and percentage of students who were chronically absent and the number and percentage of students who received a disciplinary suspension. The bill directs the commissioner to review the chronic absenteeism rates of each school and school district annually, and report on the rates to the State Board of Education.

The term "chronically absent," as used in the bill, will be defined pursuant to rules and regulations promulgated by the Commissioner of Education within 90 days after enactment.

STATEMENT TO
ASSEMBLY, No. 2192

with Assembly Floor Amendments
(Proposed by Assemblywoman VAINIERI HUTTLE)

ADOPTED: MARCH 26, 2018

This floor amendment requires that School Report Cards include data on the number and percentage of students who were chronically absent disaggregated by multiple student subgroups to be determined by the Commissioner of Education.

LEGISLATIVE FISCAL ESTIMATE

[First Reprint]

ASSEMBLY, No. 2192

STATE OF NEW JERSEY 218th LEGISLATURE

DATED: APRIL 5, 2018

SUMMARY

- Synopsis:** Requires Commissioner of Education to include data on chronic absenteeism and disciplinary suspensions on School Report Card and requires public schools to make certain efforts to combat chronic absenteeism.
- Type of Impact:** Expenditure Increase
- Agencies Affected:** Department of Education; School Districts

Office of Legislative Services Estimate

Fiscal Impact	<u>Year 1</u>	<u>Year 2</u>	<u>Year 3</u>
State Cost		No Change	
Local Cost		Indeterminate Increase	

- The Office of Legislative Services anticipates that the legislation will not lead to an increase in State expenditures. The Department of Education’s School Performance Report, the successor to the School Report Card required pursuant to P.L.1995, c.235 (C.18A:7E-1 et seq.), currently includes information on chronic absenteeism and suspensions.
- A school district may incur increased expenditures under the bill if at least 10 percent of the students enrolled in at least one of the district’s schools are deemed “chronically absent.” If this occurs, the school would be required to develop a corrective action plan to address absenteeism. A school district may incur expenditures as a result of implementing the corrective action plan.

BILL DESCRIPTION

This bill stipulates that the annual School Report Card, which is required pursuant to P.L.1995, c.235 (C.18A:7E-1 et seq.), must include data on the number and percent of students who were “chronically absent,” as defined by regulations to be promulgated by the

Commissioner of Education, and number and percent of students who received a disciplinary suspension, including disaggregated by multiple student subgroups. If at least 10 percent of the students in a school are deemed chronically absent, then the school would be required to develop a corrective action plan to address the absenteeism. In developing the plan, the school would solicit input from parents of students enrolled in the school, and would present the corrective action plan to the district board of education. The school would be required to revise and submit the report to the board annually until the percent of students who are deemed chronically absent is less than 10 percent.

FISCAL ANALYSIS

EXECUTIVE BRANCH

None received.

OFFICE OF LEGISLATIVE SERVICES

The Office of Legislative Services anticipates that this bill will not lead to a change in State expenditures. Currently, the School Performance Report, the successor to the School Report Card required pursuant to P.L.1995, c.235 (C.18A:7E-1 et seq.), includes data related to student suspensions and chronic absenteeism. Beginning with the release of data for the 2016-2017 school year, the report disaggregated the chronic absenteeism data by multiple student subgroups, including race and ethnicity, economically disadvantaged, students with disabilities, and English language learners.

The legislation may result in an indeterminate increase in a school district's expenditures if, in at least one school in the district, 10 percent or more of the students were considered chronically absent, thereby triggering the development of a corrective action plan. The potential cost would be contingent on the strategies implemented by a school, such as less costly options (e.g., increased communication and outreach) to potentially more expensive strategies (such as hiring additional attendance officers).

Based on data included in the School Performance Report for the 2016-2017 school year, nearly one-third of schools had at least 10 percent of students who were classified as chronically absent.¹

Section: Education
Analyst: Allen T. Dupree
Principal Fiscal Analyst
Approved: Frank W. Haines III
Legislative Budget and Finance Officer

This legislative fiscal estimate has been produced by the Office of Legislative Services due to the failure of the Executive Branch to respond to our request for a fiscal note.

This fiscal estimate has been prepared pursuant to P.L.1980, c.67 (C.52:13B-6 et seq.).

¹ The School Performance Reports define chronically absent as being absent for at least 10 percent of the days that a student is enrolled in a school.



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Newark, N.J.

Governor Murphy Takes Action on Legislation

05/30/2018

TRENTON – Today, Governor Phil Murphy announced that he has signed the following bills into law:

A2787 (Dancer, Andrzejczak, Houghtaling, Rooney/Cruz-Perez, Singer) – Extends pilot program authorizing special occasion events at wineries on preserved farmland; implements reporting requirement.

A3380 (McKeon, Murphy, Lampitt, Conaway/Vitale, Singleton) – “New Jersey Health Insurance Market Preservation Act.”

S482 (Vitale/Vainieri Huttle, Quijano, Jasey) – Authorizes certain gestational carrier agreements.

S846 (Turner, Cruz-Perez/Pintor Marin, Mukherji, Gusciora, Jones, Sumter) – Reinstates and extends duration of certain UEZs; requires DCA to study UEZ program and report recommendations to the Legislature.

S868 (Sweeney, Vitale/Coughlin, Jasey, Schaer)– Permits candidates for school board to circulate petitions jointly and be bracketed together on ballot; permits short nonpolitical designation of principles on petitions and ballots.

S1217 (Sweeney, Smith/Mazzeo, Armato, DeAngelo) – Requires BPU consideration and approval of amended application for qualified wind energy project offshore in certain NJ territorial waters.

S1870 (Vitale, Ruiz/Speight, Quijano, McKnight) – Requires Child Fatality and Near Fatality Review Board to study racial and ethnic disparities that contribute to infant mortality.

S1876 (Ruiz, Corrado/Vainieri Huttle, Caputo, Jasey) – Requires Commissioner of Education to include data on chronic absenteeism and disciplinary suspensions on School Report Card and requires public schools to make certain efforts to combat chronic absenteeism.

S1878 (Vitale, Singleton/McKeon, Lampitt, Murphy) – "New Jersey Health Insurance Premium Security Act;" establishes health insurance reinsurance plan.

S1894 (Ruiz, Turner/Lampitt, Sumter, Barclay) – Requires "breakfast after the bell" program in all schools with 70% or more of students eligible for free or reduced price meals.

S1895 (Ruiz, Turner/Lampitt, Jones, Wimberly) – Requires certain school districts to submit report on nonparticipation in "Community Eligibility Provision" of National School Lunch and School Breakfast Programs.

S1896 (Ruiz, Turner/Lampitt, Wimberly, Jones) – Requires school district to report at least biannually to Department of Agriculture number of students who are denied school breakfast or school lunch.

S1897 (Ruiz, Turner/Lampitt, Pintor Marin, Barclay) – Expands summer meal program to all school districts with 50 percent or more of students eligible for free or reduced price meals.

S2247 (Sweeney/Burzichelli, Mukherji, Murphy) – Allows charitable assets set aside from the sale of nonprofit hospital to for-profit entity to be allocated to successor nonprofit charitable entity that is establishing and operating

equivalent nonprofit hospital.

Governor Murphy also announced that he has conditionally vetoed the following bills:

S879 (Sweeney/Burzichelli, Taliaferro, Murphy) – Amends definition of "existing major hazardous waste facility" in "Major Hazardous Waste Facilities Siting Act."

[Copy of message on S879](#)

S976 (Vitale, Bateman/Vainieri Huttel, Lagana, Mukherji) – "Revised State Medical Examiner Act"; establishes Office of the Chief State Medical Examiner in DOH.

[Copy of message on S976](#)

S1968 (Pou/Wimberly, Mukherji, Sumter) – Extends document submission deadline for certain residential and mixed use parking projects under Economic Redevelopment and Growth Grant program; increases maximum credit amounts awarded for certain residential and mixed use parking projects.

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