



General Assembly

Substitute Bill No. 5357

February Session, 2014



AN ACT CONCERNING CHRONIC ABSENTEEISM.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2014*) (a) As used in this section
2 and section 10-220 of the general statutes, as amended by this act:

3 (1) "Chronically absent child" means a child enrolled in a school
4 under the jurisdiction of a local or regional board of education and has
5 eighteen or more unexcused absences, as defined by the State Board of
6 Education pursuant to section 10-198b of the general statutes, from
7 school in a school year;

8 (2) "District chronic absenteeism rate" means the total number of
9 chronically absent children under the jurisdiction of a local or regional
10 board of education in the previous school year divided by the total
11 number of children under the jurisdiction of such board for such
12 school year; and

13 (3) "School chronic absenteeism rate" means the total number of
14 chronically absent children for a school in the previous school year
15 divided by the total number of children enrolled in such school for
16 such school year.

17 (b) Each local and regional board of education that (1) has a district
18 chronic absenteeism rate of ten per cent or greater, or (2) has a school

19 under the jurisdiction of the board with a school chronic absenteeism
20 rate of fifteen per cent or greater, shall establish a district school
21 attendance review team to address chronic absenteeism at the school.
22 The district school attendance review team may consist of school
23 administrators, guidance counselors, school social workers, teachers
24 and representatives from community-based programs designed to
25 improve student attendance at school, provide assistance to students
26 who are truant or any other appropriate services. The district school
27 attendance review team shall be responsible for reviewing the cases of
28 chronically absent children, discussing school interventions and
29 community referrals for such children and making any additional
30 recommendations for such children and their families. The school
31 attendance review team shall meet at least monthly.

32 Sec. 2. Subsection (c) of section 10-220 of the general statutes is
33 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July*
34 *1, 2014*):

35 (c) Annually, each local and regional board of education shall
36 submit to the Commissioner of Education a strategic school profile
37 report for each school under its jurisdiction and for the school district
38 as a whole. The superintendent of each local and regional school
39 district shall present the profile report at the next regularly scheduled
40 public meeting of the board of education after each November first.
41 The profile report shall provide information on measures of (1) student
42 needs, (2) school resources, including technological resources and
43 utilization of such resources and infrastructure, (3) student and school
44 performance, including [truancy] the number of truants and
45 chronically absent children, as defined in section 1 of this act, (4) the
46 number of students enrolled in an adult high school credit diploma
47 program, pursuant to section 10-69, operated by a local or regional
48 board of education or a regional educational service center, (5)
49 equitable allocation of resources among its schools, (6) reduction of
50 racial, ethnic and economic isolation, and (7) special education. For
51 purposes of this subsection, measures of special education include (A)

52 special education identification rates by disability, (B) rates at which
53 special education students are exempted from mastery testing
54 pursuant to section 10-14q, (C) expenditures for special education,
55 including such expenditures as a percentage of total expenditures, (D)
56 achievement data for special education students, (E) rates at which
57 students identified as requiring special education are no longer
58 identified as requiring special education, (F) the availability of
59 supplemental educational services for students lacking basic
60 educational skills, (G) the amount of special education student
61 instructional time with nondisabled peers, (H) the number of students
62 placed out-of-district, and (I) the actions taken by the school district to
63 improve special education programs, as indicated by analyses of the
64 local data provided in subparagraphs (A) to (H), inclusive, of this
65 subdivision. The superintendent shall include in the narrative portion
66 of the report information about parental involvement and if the district
67 has taken measures to improve parental involvement, including, but
68 not limited to, employment of methods to engage parents in the
69 planning and improvement of school programs and methods to
70 increase support to parents working at home with their children on
71 learning activities. For purposes of this subsection, measures of
72 truancy include the type of data that is required to be collected by the
73 Department of Education regarding attendance and unexcused
74 absences in order for the department to comply with federal reporting
75 requirements and the actions taken by the local or regional board of
76 education to reduce truancy in the school district. Such truancy data
77 shall be considered a public record for purposes of chapter 14.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	July 1, 2014	New section
Sec. 2	July 1, 2014	10-220(c)

Statement of Legislative Commissioners:

In section 1(b), removed two references to "for the previous school year" to avoid redundancy with definitions.

ED *Joint Favorable Subst.*