

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)

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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.

