

TRUANCY / CHRONIC ABSENCE

DEVELOPING A SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT AND ATTENDANCE IMPROVEMENT PLAN

School Improvement Plan

School districts shall differentiate public schools based on their chronic absence rates into no fewer than four categories.

School districts shall differentiate student subpopulations based on their chronic absence rates into no fewer than four categories.

Using the differentiation scheme pursuant to Attendance for Success Act, a school district shall develop attendance improvement plans that include the following elements:

- specific school district supports and resources available to public schools at each level to further the implementation of their attendance improvement plans;
- attendance improvement targets for public schools or subpopulations with chronic absence rates of ten percent or greater, developed in collaboration with each public school; and
- an attendance improvement target for the school district with chronic absence rates of ten percent or greater.

Each school district shall report its attendance improvement plan to the department no later than forty-five days after the beginning of the school year. The department may allow a school district to report its attendance improvement plan as part of the educational plan for student success.

At the end of each school year, each school district shall report to the local school board and to the public on the school district's website, the progress made on its attendance improvement plan, to include:

- a description of the supports and resources provided to public schools at each tier of absence of the attendance improvement plan;
- the extent to which public schools with chronic absence rates greater than ten percent achieved their attendance improvement targets;
- the extent to which the school district achieved its attendance improvement targets;
- barriers and challenges to reducing chronic absence rates, as reported by the public school and school district personnel;
- effective school-based practices, as evidenced by decreased chronic absence rates; and

- recommendations for improvement during the next school year at both the public school and school district level.

Attendance Improvement Plan

A public school shall initiate the enforcement of the provisions of the Attendance for Success Act for its enrolled students. The enforcement policies of a public school shall focus on prevention and intervention.

Beginning in the 2020-2021 school year, a public school with five percent or greater of students with a chronic absence rate during the prior school year, or with five percent or greater of one or more subpopulations of students with a chronic absence rate during the prior school year, shall develop an attendance improvement plan no later than thirty days after the beginning of each new school year, and again no later than thirty days after the beginning of the spring semester, to be submitted to the department and may be part of the public school's educational plan for student success.

A public school, regardless of its chronic absence rate, shall develop and implement a whole-school absence prevention strategy to be reported to the department as part of the public school's educational plan for student success.

An attendance improvement plan shall include:

- attendance data for each of the preceding two school years and the current school year, including:
 - the public school's overall absence rate;
 - chronic absence rates disaggregated by student subpopulation;
 - chronic absence rates disaggregated by grade level; and
 - student attendance for every day of the school year;
- school-wide identification of potential root causes of chronic and excessive absenteeism through one or more of the following:
 - national or local research;
 - analysis of supportive factors and barriers;
 - student surveys or focus groups;
 - youth participatory research; or
 - other appropriate school-based research methods;
- identification of strategies for each tier of the attendance improvement plan;
- identification of performance measures for each strategy; and
- a data-collection plan for performance measures.