

2025 Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 180

BY REPRESENTATIVES FREIBERG AND CHASSION

A RESOLUTION

To create a study group to study truancy, including the feasibility and advisability of adjusting the student count methodology used in the state's elementary and secondary education funding formula in the effort to address truancy, and to submit a written report to the House Committee on Education and the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education not later than February 1, 2026.

WHEREAS, concerns have been raised about high truancy rates in some school districts throughout the state; and

WHEREAS, the Constitution of Louisiana provides for public elementary and secondary education funding through the minimum foundation program (MFP) formula, which is adopted by the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education (BESE) and submitted to the legislature for approval; and

WHEREAS, the MFP formula has historically provided for specific student count dates in February and October; other states use various student count methodologies, including a daily average attendance method that establishes a base student count by measuring aggregate days of student attendance during the school year divided by the number of days that school is in session; and

WHEREAS, some have expressed that basing Louisiana's student count methodology on average daily attendance rather than two counts per year might be one way to address truancy issues in the state.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby create a study group to study truancy, including the feasibility and advisability of adjusting the student count methodology used in the state's elementary and secondary education funding formula in the effort to address truancy.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the study group shall have the following sixteen members:

- (1) The president of BESE or a BESE member serving as his designee.
- (2) A child welfare attendance officer from a small rural school district appointed by the president of the Louisiana Association of Child Welfare and Attendance Personnel.
- (3) A child welfare attendance officer from a large urban school district appointed by the president of the Louisiana Association of Child Welfare and Attendance Personnel.
- (4) Two school social workers appointed by the president of the Louisiana Association of School Social Workers.
- (5) One middle school counselor appointed by the president of the Louisiana School Counselor Association.
- (6) One high school counselor appointed by the president of the Louisiana School Counselor Association.
- (7) Two assistant principals whose duties include addressing attendance appointed by the president of the Louisiana Association of Principals.
- (8) Two principals appointed by the president of the Louisiana Association of Principals.
- (9) One superintendent of a small rural school district appointed by the executive director of the Louisiana Association of School Superintendents.
- (10) One superintendent of a large urban school district appointed by the executive director of the Louisiana Association of School Superintendents.
- (11) One member representing charter schools appointed by the executive director of the Louisiana Association of Public Charter Schools.
- (12) One member representing the truancy assessment and service center in East Baton Rouge Parish appointed by the district attorney of East Baton Rouge Parish.
- (13) One member representing the Louisiana School Boards Association appointed by the executive director.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the report shall include, at a minimum, the following:

- (1) The advantages, disadvantages, and potential impacts, in terms of addressing truancy, of using a student count methodology in the MFP formula that is based on average daily attendance.
- (2) Ways to increase attendance.
- (3) Ways to reduce chronic absences.
- (4) Ways to improve communication between school officials and parents, particularly with respect to students who are English Language Learners, relative to attendance.
- (5) Absence and truancy data according to student demographics.
- (6) Strategies for strengthening student support and engagement and family outreach with respect to attendance.
- (7) Issues related to consistency, or lack thereof, in reporting and coding with respect to attendance and the use of different attendance software across the state.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the president of BESE shall be responsible for designating BESE staff to assist the study group in performing its duties.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the study group shall submit a written report of findings and recommendations to the House Committee on Education and the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education not later than February 1, 2026, on which date the study group shall terminate.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the president of the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education and the state superintendent of education.

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES