

2025 Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 180

BY REPRESENTATIVE FREIBERG

STUDENT/SCH ATTENDANCE: Creates a study group to study truancy, including potentially adjusting the student count methodology used in the public school funding formula in the effort to address truancy

1 A RESOLUTION

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

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

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

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

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

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

5 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the study group shall have the following fifteen
6 members:

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

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

3 (1) The advantages, disadvantages, and potential impacts, in terms of addressing
4 truancy, of using a student count methodology in the MFP formula that is based on average
5 daily attendance.

6 (2) Ways to increase attendance.

7 (3) Ways to reduce chronic absences.

8 (4) Ways to improve communication between school officials and parents,
9 particularly with respect to students who are English Language Learners, relative to
10 attendance.

11 (5) Absence and truancy data according to student demographics.

12 (6) Strategies for strengthening student support and engagement and family outreach
13 with respect to attendance.

14 (7) Issues related to consistency, or lack thereof, in reporting and coding with respect
15 to attendance and the use of different attendance software across the state.

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

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

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

DIGEST

The digest printed below was prepared by House Legislative Services. It constitutes no part of the legislative instrument. The keyword, one-liner, abstract, and digest do not constitute part of the law or proof or indicia of legislative intent. [R.S. 1:13(B) and 24:177(E)]

address truancy, and provides for submission of a written report to the House Committee on Education and BESE by Feb. 1, 2026.