

1-1 By: Bettencourt, et al. S.B. No. 570
1-2 (In the Senate - Filed December 12, 2024; February 3, 2025,
1-3 read first time and referred to Committee on Education K-16;
1-4 April 7, 2025, reported favorably by the following vote: Yeas 11,
1-5 Nays 0; April 7, 2025, sent to printer.)

1-6 COMMITTEE VOTE

	Yea	Nay	Absent	PNV
1-7				
1-8	Creighton	X		
1-9	Campbell	X		
1-10	Bettencourt	X		
1-11	Hagenbuch	X		
1-12	Hinojosa of Nueces	X		
1-13	King	X		
1-14	Menéndez	X		
1-15	Middleton	X		
1-16	Parker	X		
1-17	Paxton	X		
1-18	West	X		

1-19 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
1-20 AN ACT

1-21 relating to an attendance policy adopted by public schools to
1-22 prevent truancy.

1-23 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

1-24 SECTION 1. Subchapter C, Chapter 25, Education Code, is
1-25 amended by adding Section 25.0916 to read as follows:

1-26 Sec. 25.0916. ATTENDANCE POLICY. (a) In this section,
1-27 "parent" includes a person standing in parental relation.

1-28 (b) The board of trustees of each school district and the
1-29 governing body of each open-enrollment charter school shall adopt
1-30 and implement an attendance policy to:

1-31 (1) inform students and parents regarding the
1-32 importance of regular attendance; and

1-33 (2) provide appropriate supports to students who fail
1-34 to regularly attend school.

1-35 (c) An attendance policy adopted under this section must:

1-36 (1) describe the benefits of regular attendance;

1-37 (2) describe the consequences of failing to regularly
1-38 attend school, including the negative effects on:

1-39 (A) a student's academic progress; and

1-40 (B) a student and the student's family as a
1-41 result of referral to a truancy court for truant conduct under
1-42 Section 65.003(a), Family Code;

1-43 (3) provide for a parent of a student enrolled in the
1-44 district or school to elect to receive notifications of the
1-45 student's absence from school for a day or part of a day, regardless
1-46 of whether the student's absence is excused or unexcused, through:

1-47 (A) e-mail or text message, if the district or
1-48 school has the capability to send notifications through those
1-49 methods; or

1-50 (B) first class mail, if the district or school
1-51 does not have the capability to send notifications as provided by
1-52 Paragraph (A);

1-53 (4) provide for a meeting between a parent of a student
1-54 enrolled in the district or school and a school counselor,
1-55 principal, or appropriate administrator when the student becomes at
1-56 risk for engaging in truant conduct under Section 65.003, Family
1-57 Code, as provided by the policy, to discuss the student's behavior
1-58 and any conditions at the student's home that may be contributing to
1-59 the student's failure to attend school;

1-60 (5) if a parent of a student enrolled in the district
1-61 or school fails to attend a meeting described by Subdivision (4),

2-1 authorize the school attendance officer to make a home visit or
2-2 otherwise contact the parent in the manner described by Section
2-3 25.091 to investigate the student's behavior and living conditions
2-4 and report the attendance officer's findings to the district or
2-5 school; and

2-6 (6) establish guidelines to identify a student in need
2-7 of additional support and to refer the student to in-school or
2-8 out-of-school services aimed at addressing the student's failure to
2-9 regularly attend school.

2-10 (d) At the beginning of each school year, each school
2-11 district or open-enrollment charter school shall provide a copy of
2-12 the attendance policy adopted under this section to the parent of
2-13 each student enrolled in the district or school.

2-14 SECTION 2. This Act applies beginning with the 2025-2026
2-15 school year.

2-16 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
2-17 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
2-18 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
2-19 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
2-20 Act takes effect September 1, 2025.

2-21 * * * * *