

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY MARCH 26, 2015

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2015–16 REGULAR SESSION

ASSEMBLY BILL

No. 1014

Introduced by Assembly Member Thurmond

February 26, 2015

An act to add Section 48270 to the Education Code, relating to pupils, and making an appropriation therefor.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 1014, as amended, Thurmond. Pupils: ~~truancy~~. *truancy: Our Children's Success—The Early Intervention Attendance Grant Program.*

Existing law requires a pupil subject to compulsory full-time education or to compulsory continuation education who is absent from school without a valid excuse 3 full days in one school year or tardy or absent for more than a 30-minute period during the schoolday without a valid excuse on 3 occasions in one school year, or any combination thereof, to be classified as a truant. Existing law requires, upon a pupil's initial classification as a truant, a school district to notify the pupil's parent or guardian of specified information using the most cost-effective method possible.

This bill would ~~state the intent of the Legislature to enact legislation that would recognize and resolve the current school truancy crisis, help facilitate the return of chronically absent children to consistent and enduring school attendance, and recognize the importance of foundational education in the early years. The bill would also make various findings and declarations regarding truancy. The bill would establish Our Children's Success—The Early Intervention Attendance Grant Program under the administration of the State Department of Education. The program would provide grants to applicant public~~

schools seeking to resolve the attendance problems of pupils in kindergarten and grades 1 to 3, inclusive. The bill would provide that public schools maintaining kindergarten or any of grades 1 to 3, inclusive, could apply for grants under the program. The bill would require the applications for grants submitted by schools to the department to reflect a plan including specified components.

The bill would require the department to give priority to applicant schools that have prioritized pupil engagement in their local control and accountability plans. The bill would appropriate an unspecified sum from an unspecified source to the department for purposes of implementing the bill.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: ~~no~~-yes. Fiscal committee: ~~no~~ yes. State-mandated local program: no.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

- 1 SECTION 1. The Legislature finds and declares all of the of
- 2 the following:
- 3 (a) Only 17 percent of chronically absent kindergartners and
- 4 first graders in California read proficiently by grade 3 and pupils
- 5 who do not read proficiently by grade 3 are four times more likely
- 6 to drop out of school. Children who drop out of school cost the
- 7 state more than \$46 billion each year, including more than \$1
- 8 billion in juvenile crime costs alone.
- 9 (b) Ninety percent of elementary school pupils with severe
- 10 attendance problems, missing 36 or more days in the school year,
- 11 are estimated to be from low-income families.
- 12 (c) In the 2013–14 school year, 250,000 elementary school
- 13 pupils and 1 in 10 pupils from low-income families were
- 14 chronically absent, missing 10 percent or more of the school year.
- 15 (d) In the 2013–14 school year, African American elementary
- 16 school pupils were the highest subgroup, including homeless pupils,
- 17 to be truant and these pupils are chronically truant at four times
- 18 the rate of all other pupils.
- 19 (e) In the 2012–13 school year, one in five, or 744,085,
- 20 elementary school pupils were truant, an increase of 1.2 percent
- 21 from the 2011–12 school year.
- 22 (f) In the 2010–11 school year, California schools lost \$1.4
- 23 billion in average daily attendance funding due to pupil absences

1 and California school districts have lost over \$3.5 billion between
2 the 2010–11 and 2013–14 school years.

3 SEC. 2.— It is the intent of the Legislature to enact legislation
4 that would do both of the following:

5 (a) Recognize and resolve the current school truancy crisis and
6 help facilitate the return of chronically absent children to consistent
7 and enduring school attendance.

8 (b) Recognize the importance of foundational education in the
9 early years by focusing on the chronically absent kindergarten and
10 grades 1 to 3, inclusive, aged children.

11 SEC. 2. Section 48270 is added to the Education Code, to read:

12 48270. (a) *Our Children's Success—The Early Intervention*
13 *Attendance Grant Program is hereby established under the*
14 *administration of the department. This grant program is established*
15 *for the purpose of helping public schools resolve the attendance*
16 *problems of pupils in kindergarten and grades 1 to 3, inclusive.*
17 *This grant program shall be implemented upon the appropriation*
18 *of sufficient funding under Section 3 of the act that added this*
19 *section.*

20 (b) *A public school maintaining kindergarten or any of grades*
21 *1 to 3, inclusive, seeking to participate in the grant program*
22 *established by this section may apply to the department for a grant*
23 *pursuant to this section. An application submitted by a public*
24 *school to the department under this subdivision shall reflect a plan*
25 *that includes, but is not necessarily limited to, all of the following*
26 *components:*

27 (1) *Establishment of a training program for key school officials*
28 *and attendance staff to identify pupils with chronic attendance*
29 *problems upon their second occurrence of tardiness or absence*
30 *in a school year, and the mailing of attendance letters to the pupil's*
31 *home in a timely manner.*

32 (2) *Establishment of a phone call outreach program, including*
33 *a minimum of two calls from a school official, not limited to a*
34 *recording, to follow up on those pupils whose attendance problems*
35 *continue during that school year after the attendance letters are*
36 *mailed.*

37 (3) *Establishment of a parent advocate position or positions,*
38 *designated for ongoing follow-up with the pupil and the parent*
39 *throughout the school year to ensure the pupil's continued*
40 *consistent school attendance. The number of these parent advocate*

1. positions may vary according to the school's needs, resources,
2. and the parent advocate's ability to manage the workload.

3. (4) Establishment of an outreach worker position or positions
4. whose primary job is assisting families with a child or children
5. who have ongoing chronic attendance problems. The duties of an
6. outreach worker include sending letters, making phone calls and
7. home visits, and helping to connect the family to the appropriate
8. local, state, or federal programs in order to resolve issues that
9. are creating impediments to the child's consistent attendance in
10. school. The number of these outreach worker positions can vary
11. according to the school's needs, resources, and the outreach
12. worker's ability to manage the workload.

13. (5) Determining that the applicant school's plan is instituted,
14. to the best of the school's ability, before a pupil enters the school
15. attendance review board process.

16. (6) Establishment of a plan for teacher follow-up with pupils
17. with chronic attendance problems to make up for lost instructional
18. time.

19. (7) Establishment of a plan to track pupil attendance and
20. aggregate data on tardiness and attendance throughout the school
21. year to determine whether improvement has been made.

22. (c) In evaluating applications for grants under this section, the
23. department shall give priority to applicant schools that have
24. prioritized pupil engagement in their local control and
25. accountability plans adopted pursuant to Section 52060.

26. (d) The grant program established by this section shall not be
27. construed as a replacement of, or a substitution for, the school
28. attendance review board process as described in this article.

29. SEC. 3. The sum of ____ dollars (\$____) is hereby
30. appropriated to the State Department of Education for purposes
31. of implementing Our Children's Success--The Early Intervention
32. Attendance Grant Program, as established in Section 48270 of the
33. Education Code. It is the intent of the Legislature that the funds
34. appropriated under this section be drawn from sources that may
35. include, but are not necessarily limited to, the General Fund, the
36. Safe Neighborhoods and Schools Fund established by Proposition
37. 47 on the November 2014 statewide general election ballot, federal

1 *and local government funds, and contributions from nonprofit*
2 *organizations and other private entities.*

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2015 APR 30 PM 5:16 OAKLAND CITY COUNCIL

Resolution No. _____ C.M.S.

INTRODUCED BY COUNCIL PRESIDENT LYNETTE GIBSON MCELHANEY

RESOLUTION TO SUPPORT FOR CALIFORNIA ASSEMBLY BILL 1014 WHICH WOULD CREATE A GRANTS PROGRAM THROUGH THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION TO SCHOOLS SEEKING TO RESOLVE CHRONIC ATTENDANCE PROBLEMS FOR CHILDREN IN KINDERGARTEN THROUGH 3RD GRADE.

WHEREAS, students who are chronically absent between Kindergarten and 3rd grade face significant challenges to becoming proficient at grade level reading skills, due to the loss of class time in which they miss key elements in the pedagogical sequencing of literacy skills; and

WHEREAS, a child who has been chronically absent continues to face these academic challenges throughout their educational career and is far more likely to drop out of school than their peers, and this lack of educational attainment can often lead to contact with the criminal justice system; and

WHEREAS, when a student is absent, the school loses funding that is attributed to that student's Average Daily Attendance, causing fewer resources to be available at that school; and

WHEREAS, in the 2010-2011 school year, California schools lost \$1.4 billion dollars in Average Daily Attendance due to student absences; and

WHEREAS, Assembly Bill 1014, authored by Assemblymember Tony Thurmond, would provide grants for schools seeking to reduce their chronic absenteeism by providing Early Intervention Attendance Grant funds which can be used to pay for training programs for school and attendance staff, for phone outreach programs, for outreach advocate positions who will work with parents to determine barriers to attendance and provide resources to overcome the obstacles that have detrimental on their child's education; and

WHEREAS, because early intervention in addressing chronic absenteeism prevents a student from ever getting academically behind, Assembly Bill 1014 will only fund grants to programs supporting students in Kindergarten to 3rd grade; and

WHEREAS, in the 2009-2010 school year, Berkeley Unified School District spent \$100,000 on attendance programs to reduce chronic absenteeism which were extremely successful in increasing attendance and which generated \$500,000 in Average Daily Attendance funding to the school district; and now therefore be it

RESOLVED: that the City Council of Oakland strongly supports the passage of Assembly Bill 1014.

IN COUNCIL, OAKLAND, CALIFORNIA,
PASSED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES - BROOKS, CAMPBELL-WASHINGTON, GALLO, GUILLEN, KALB, KAPLAN, REID AND
PRESIDENT GIBSON MCELHANEY

NOES -
ABSENT -
ABSTENTION -

ATTEST:

LATONDA SIMMONS
City Clerk and Clerk of the Council of the
City of Oakland, California