



HB 2657

Oregon has one of the nation's worst chronic absenteeism problems. A recent study ranked Oregon as the 4th worst in school attendance for 4th and 8th graders.

- One in five Oregon students are chronically absent from school.
- Nearly 100,000 kids miss 3.5 weeks of school.
- Only half of our students attend school regularly (regularly = more than 95 percent of the time).

Current law:

Currently, Oregon's State School Funding Formula uses an *enrollment based measure* known as Average Daily Resident Membership (ADMr).

Average daily membership means the total number of days a student is present and absent from school. The count tracks the number of children enrolled in a district's public schools on an average daily basis over the course of the school year.

Using ADMr as the basis of the funding formula provides a perverse fiscal incentive to districts to be lax in attendance policies. **If students do not attend school, class sizes are reduced; but under the funding formula, revenues remain constant.**

HB 2657 proposes:

A shift to an *attendance based measure*, commonly referred to as Average Daily Attendance (ADA). The bill directs State Board of Education to not consider days pupil is absent when determining aggregate days membership for purposes of distributions from State School Fund. Doing so would explicitly encourage schools to emphasize attendance where the current fiscal system does not.

HB 2657 recognizes that schools and districts will need a period of time to determine strategies for increasing student attendance, so proposes a phased in implementation period, with full implementation by school year 2020.

- > 2016-17: grade kindergarten will have funds distributed via the attendance based measure
- > 2017-18: grades K-2 will have funds distributed via the attendance based measure
- > 2018-19: grades K-4 will have funds distributed via the attendance based measure
- > 2019-20: grades K-8 will have funds distributed via the attendance based measure
- > 2020-21: grades K-12 will have funds distributed via the attendance based measure

The attendance based measure will allow for excused student absences and the observation of religious holidays.