

Chronic Absenteeism Workgroup

September Legislative Days

PREPARED FOR: Senate and House Interim Committees on Education

DATE: September 23, 2024

BY: Representative H. Nguyen, Senator S. Weber

RE: Chronic Absenteeism Workgroup Update



Background

- Nationally, rates of chronic absenteeism have risen. In Oregon, recent data shows that during the school year, over 30% of students were reported as missing at least 2 school days per month, on average.
- Chronically missing school, for any reason, is linked with declines in academic performance.
- The Chronic Absenteeism Workgroup has discussed the causes of student absenteeism, interventions currently being implemented in Oregon to improve student attendance, and policies from other states to address chronic absenteeism



Workgroup Overview

- Co-Chaired by:
Representative Hoa Nguyen
Senator Suzanne Weber
- The workgroup has met six times during the 2024 interim, with one meeting a month from April-September.
- The workgroup consists of 21 members, including representatives from the Oregon Department of Education, school district administrators and staff, and representatives from various stakeholder groups.
- Workgroup presentations available on OLIS. Go to 23-24 Interim, Committees, Senate, Education, click Workgroup Materials



Workgroup Participants

Superintendents from Astoria, Colton, Tillamook, and Knappa School Districts;
Senior attendance practitioners from Hood River County SD and Portland Public Schools

Representatives from COSA (Superintendents), OSBA (School Board Association), OEA (Educators Association), OSEA (School Employees Association), and the PTA (Parent Teachers Association)

Representatives from Youth Rights Justice, Disability Rights Oregon, FACT Oregon, Stand for Children

Representatives from 3 divisions with Oregon Department of Education - the Tribal Attendance Promising Practices program, the Office of Education, Innovation, and Improvement, and The Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander Student Success Coordinator



Oregon's Education Community is Stepping Up

Oregon Governor Kotek and ODE Director Dr. Williams issued a proclamation declaring September "Attendance Awareness Month"

The Oregon School Board Association's Legislative Policy Committee has prioritized Attendance and Chronic Absenteeism

The Coalition of Oregon School Administrators has begun an internal working group on Attendance

ODE has developed a holistic, evidence-based Early Indicator and Intervention System (EIS) that legislators should consider investing in



Presentations

The workgroup heard presentations on:

- The national landscape of school attendance, and policy interventions in other states,
- Current programs in Oregon to address chronic absenteeism, including Every Day Matters, and an overview of chronic absenteeism in Oregon from ODE,
- Outstanding initiatives from a variety of Oregon school districts to improve school attendance and address barriers to student attendance,
- The work of community entities in Oregon to support efforts to reduce chronic absenteeism, including presentations from Kaiser Permanente, ODHS, and the Klamath Promise.



Legislative Proposals

- Invest in “Tier 1” attendance supports, making baseline attendance response available for every district in Oregon
- Direct Oregon Department of Education to present attendance data from districts quarterly, including expanding to summer learning
- Invest in Education Service District (ESD) capacity to provide technical support to districts looking to hit attendance achievements
- Increase access to transportation options for districts and families



Thank you. Questions?

Representative Hoa Nguyen
Senator Suzanne Weber
LPRO Analyst Taylor Bickel

