

LFC Requester:	Liu
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**AGENCY BILL ANALYSIS
2023 REGULAR SESSION**

SECTION I: GENERAL INFORMATION

Check all that apply:

Original **Amendment**
Correction **Substitute**

Date Prepared: 02/13/23
Bill No: SB367

Sponsor: Pope
Short Title: SCHOOL ATTENDANCE CHANGES

Agency Name and Code Number: PED - 924
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SECTION II: FISCAL IMPACT

APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
FY23	FY24		
None	None	N/A	NFA

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

REVENUE (dollars in thousands)

Estimated Revenue			Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
FY23	FY24	FY25		
None	None	None	N/A	NFA

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

ESTIMATED ADDITIONAL OPERATING BUDGET IMPACT (dollars in thousands)

	FY23	FY24	FY25	3 Year Total Cost	Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
Total	None	None	None	None	N/A	NFA

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

Duplicates/Relates to Appropriation in the General Appropriation Act:
The executive budget request includes \$17 million for attendance interventions

SECTION III: NARRATIVE

BILL SUMMARY

Synopsis: Senate Bill 367 (SB367) would amend sections of the [Attendance for Success Act](#) to:

- attempt to improve attendance by identifying and seeking to address the root causes of chronic and excessive absenteeism through early intervention efforts;

- require a student be withdrawn from membership counts only when a student has 10 or more consecutive unexcused absences, not excused absences, and after a student has been provided all appropriate progressive interventions, as outlined in statute; and
- reduce the administrative burden of school districts by reducing the scope of required individualized student attendance plans to focus on the most excessively absent students

The bill would also create the Attendance for Success Fund for the Public Education Department (PED) to support statewide attendance interventions.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

SB367 does not include an appropriation.

The bill would establish the Attendance for Success Fund as a non-reverting fund in the state treasury. The fund would be administered by PED and money in the fund would be subject to appropriation by the Legislature to support a statewide attendance program and to make grant awards to school districts and state-chartered charter schools to support attendance intervention, dropout reduction, and on-time high school graduation resources in public schools.

The Executive Budget and PED recommendation for FY24 includes \$17 million from the Public Education Reform Fund to support the implementation of the Attendance for Success Act.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

In SY22, 40 percent of students were chronically absent. Current statute requires individualized attendance plans for each chronically absent student, which is administratively difficult for school districts to do with existing capacity and resources. The bill would require individualized plans only for excessively absent students, who, in SY22, comprised 17 percent of all students. The amendment would allow school districts to focus on students with the highest need. The bill maintains whole-school interventions for schools with significant numbers of chronically absent students and continues to require school conversations with parents of chronically absent students about approaches to reduce absences and increase student engagement in school.

PERFORMANCE IMPLICATIONS

SB367 would improve student attendance and dropout rates and thereby increase the number of students meeting the state's rigorous academic standards and graduation requirements.

ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS

The bill would reduce school district administrative burden by reducing the number of individualized attendance improvement plans required by them.

PED would be required to grant awards to school districts and state-chartered charter schools with students in kindergarten through 12th grades, based on the school district's or state-chartered charter school's proportionate share of students in kindergarten through 12th grade enrolled for the second reporting period of the previous year. This could be accomplished with existing staff and resources at PED.

CONFLICT, DUPLICATION, COMPANIONSHIP, RELATIONSHIP

N/A

TECHNICAL ISSUES

N/A

OTHER SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES

The bill would likely increase student attendance because of the following provisions:

- Expanding schools' and school districts' focus on comprehensive whole-school absence prevention strategies and resources, such as enforcement of anti-bullying policies, availability of transportation, and assessing student discipline policies;
- Expanding support for comprehensive dropout reduction efforts, including middle school to high school transition supports, positive behavior supports, and early intervention to address course failure;
- Aligning school attendance interventions with reasons for student absences;
- Targeting schools' individualized student attendance plans for those students who are most excessively absent;
- Improving school-parent communication to support student re-engagement in school;
- Creating a fund to support school attendance interventions, reduce dropouts, and increase on-time high school graduation;
- Improving annual school reporting of absent students; and
- Prohibiting automatic disenrollment of students who have only excused absences.

ALTERNATIVES

N/A

WHAT WILL BE THE CONSEQUENCES OF NOT ENACTING THIS BILL

N/A

AMENDMENTS

N/A