

Appendix B: Statutory Authority

Minnesota Laws 2024, Chapter 115, Article 1, Section 21.

Sec. 21. **STUDENT ATTENDANCE AND TRUANCY LEGISLATIVE STUDY GROUP.**

Subdivision 1. **Establishment.** A legislative study group is established to study issues related to student attendance and truancy.

Subd. 2. **Members.** (a) The legislative study group on student attendance and truancy consists of:

(1) four duly elected and currently serving members of the house of representatives, two appointed by the speaker of the house and two appointed by the house minority leader; and

(2) four duly elected and currently serving senators, two appointed by the senate majority leader and two appointed by the senate minority leader.

(b) The appointments must be made by June 15, 2024, and expire December 31, 2024.

(c) If a vacancy occurs, the leader of the caucus in the house of representatives or senate to which the vacating study group member belonged must fill the vacancy.

Subd. 3. **Duties.** (a) The legislative study group must study and evaluate ways to increase student attendance and reduce truancy. In preparing the recommendations, the group must consider the following:

(1) current statutory requirements relating to student attendance and truancy;

(2) currently available attendance data and additional data that would help schools and policy makers understand and reduce absenteeism;

(3) the effect of school programs and strategies to improve attendance;

(4) the role of school principals in addressing student absenteeism;

(5) the role of the Department of Education in addressing student absenteeism;

(6) the role of counties in addressing truancy; and

(7) how truant students are tracked across county lines.

(b) The study group must identify and include in its report any statutory changes needed to implement the study group recommendations.

Subd. 4. **Meetings and chair.** (a) The speaker of the house must designate a member to convene the first meeting of the study group, which must be held no later than July 15, 2024. Members of the study group must elect a chair from among the members present at the first meeting. The study group must meet periodically.

(b) Meetings of the study group are subject to Minnesota Statutes, section 3.055. The meetings may be conducted by interactive television.

Subd. 5. **Administrative support.** The Department of Education must cooperate with the legislative study group and provide information requested in a timely fashion. The Legislative Coordinating Commission must provide meeting space, technical and administrative support, and staff support for the study group. The study group may hold meetings in any publicly accessible location in the Capitol complex that is equipped with technology that can facilitate remote testimony.

Subd. 6. **Consultation with stakeholders.** In making recommendations, the study group must consult with interested and affected stakeholders.

Subd. 7. **Report.** The study group must submit a preliminary report with its recommendations to the legislative committees and divisions with jurisdiction over kindergarten through grade 12 education by November 1, 2024, and a final report by December 31, 2024.

Subd. 8. **Expiration.** The study group expires December 31, 2024, or on the date upon which the final report required under subdivision 7 is submitted to the legislature, whichever is later.