

Appendix C: Meeting Minutes



Student Attendance and Truancy Legislative Study Group

Monday, July 29, 2024
10:30 AM
Room G-15, State Capitol
<https://www.lcc.mn.gov/satlsg/>

Members Present:

Representative Heather Keeler, Chair
Representative Ben Bakeberg
Representative Bryan Lawrence
Representative Bianca Virnig

Senator Steve Cwodzinski
Senator Robert Farnsworth
Senator Mary Kunesh

Meeting Minutes

Rep. Keeler, designated convener, called the meeting of the Student Attendance and Truancy Legislative Study Group to order at 10:38 AM in Room G-15 of the State Capitol. A quorum was present.

Introduction of Members and Staff

Members appointed to the Student Attendance and Truancy Legislative Study Group introduced themselves. LCC staff, Nick Nigro, Research Analyst, and Meena Xiong, Commission Administrative Assistant, introduced themselves.

Election of Chair

Rep. Bakeberg nominated Rep. Keeler to chair the Student Attendance and Truancy Legislative Study Group. A vote was taken. Rep. Keeler was elected Chair of the Student Attendance and Truancy Legislative Study Group.

Overview of Enabling Statute

Nick Nigro, LCC Research Analyst, provided an overview of the statute creating the Student Attendance and Truancy Legislative Study Group.

Introduction of Audience

Members of the audience were invited to introduce themselves:

Bob Driver, Minnesota Association of Secondary School Principals
Michelle Krell, Executive Director, Minnesota Elementary School Principals' Association
Colleen Kaibel, Minneapolis Public Schools

Megan Arriola, Legislative Coordinator, Minnesota Department of Education
Chuck Wiger, Building Assets Reducing Risk
Kris Amundson, Association of Metropolitan School Districts
Denise Dittrich, School Boards
Matt Shaver, Policy Director, Ed Allies
Josh Downham, Minneapolis Public Schools
Rick Heller

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 11:14 AM.



Student Attendance and Truancy Legislative Study Group

Monday, August 12, 2024

11:00 AM

Room 1100, Minnesota Senate Building

<https://www.lcc.mn.gov/satlsq/>

Members Present:

Representative Heather Keeler, Chair

Representative Ben Bakeberg

Representative Bryan Lawrence

Representative Bianca Virnig

Senator Steve Cwodzinski

Senator Robert Farnsworth

Senator Mary Kunesh

Meeting Minutes

Rep. Keeler called the meeting of the Student Attendance and Truancy Legislative Study Group to order at 11:09 AM in Room 1100 of the Minnesota Senate Building. A quorum was present.

Approval of July 29, 2024, Minutes

Rep. Bakeberg moved to approve the minutes of the July 29, 2024, meeting of the Student Attendance and Truancy Legislative Study Group. A vote was taken. The motion prevailed and the minutes were approved.

Election of Vice Chair

Rep. Keeler nominated Sen. Kunesh to chair the Student Attendance and Truancy Legislative Study Group. A vote was taken. Sen. Kunesh was elected Vice Chair of the Student Attendance and Truancy Legislative Study Group.

Introduction of Stakeholders / Engaged Partners

The Study Group heard from several stakeholders and engaged partners about student attendance and truancy:

- *Matt Shaver, Policy Director at EdAllies*
- *Mary Moriarty, Hennepin County Attorney*
- *Ashley Hanson-Oni, Social Worker at Bloomington Public Schools (ISD 271)*

- *Carol Nanneman, McKinney Vento Students in Transition/Foster Care District Liaison at Bloomington Public Schools (ISD 271)*
- *Robert Murry, Senior Dreamline Director at The Sanneh Foundation*
- *Scott Croonquist, Executive Director at Association of Metropolitan School Districts*
- *Zena Stenvik, Superintendent at Columbia Heights Public Schools*
- *Bondo Nyembwe, Executive Director of Educational Services at Columbia Heights Public Schools*
- *Christy McCoy, Legislative Coordinator at MN School Social Workers Association (MSSWA)*
- *Grace Canny, Student at Prior Lake High School*
- *Zavia Sidney, Student at Prior Lake High School*
- *Jacqui Kelch, School Resource Officer at Savage Police Department*
- *Denise Dittrich, Director of Government Relations at Minnesota School Boards Association*
- *Roger Aronson, Minnesota Association of Secondary School Principals / Minnesota Elementary Principals Association*
- *Jim Davnie, Executive Director at Minnesota Alliance with Youth*
- *Angela Mansfield, Assistant Commissioner at MN Department of Education*
- *Ivy Wheeler, COMPASS Director at MN Department of Education*
- *Lana Peterson, Data Practices and Analytics Director at MN Department of Education*
- *Fatima Molas, Co-founder at Multicultural Autism Action Network (MAAN)*
- *Nikki Hallberg, Scott County Prevention Supervisor*
- *Shauna McDonald, Executive Director at Playworks Minnesota*
- *Ashley Hightower, Hennepin County Attorney's Office - Be@School Program*

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 1:24 PM.



Student Attendance and Truancy Legislative Study Group

Monday, August 26, 2024
2:30 PM
Remote via Zoom
<https://www.lcc.mn.gov/satlsg/>

Members Present:

Representative Heather Keeler, Chair
Representative Ben Bakeberg
Representative Bryan Lawrence
Representative Bianca Virnig

Senator Mary Kunesh, Vice Chair
Senator Robert Farnsworth

Members Excused:

Senator Steve Cwodziński

Meeting Minutes

Rep. Keeler called the meeting of the Student Attendance and Truancy Legislative Study Group to order at 2:33 PM on Zoom. A quorum was present.

Approval of August 12, 2024, Minutes

Rep. Bakeberg moved to approve the minutes of the August 12, 2024, meeting of the Student Attendance and Truancy Legislative Study Group. A vote was taken. The motion prevailed and the minutes were approved.

Introduction of Stakeholders / Engaged Partners

The Study Group heard from several stakeholders and engaged partners about student attendance and truancy:

- Hannah Burton, Equal Justice Works Fellow at Mitchell Hamline School of Law
- Dr. Vera Ndumbe, Parent and Children Excel (PACE) program in Olmsted County
- Karen Warmack, Director of Polk County Social Services
- Dekka Ali, School Liaison at East Grand Forks Senior High School
- Sajid Nur, East Grand Forks Student
- Habsa Good, East Grand Forks Student
- Bahja Yussuf, East Grand Forks Student
- Eugene Sommers, District II Representative of White Earth Band of Ojibwe
- Dan McKeon, Superintendent of Bug O Nay Ge Shig School

- Andy Braulick, Truancy Officer for Brown County
- Dr. Barbara Carson, Professor Emeritus of Sociology from Minnesota State University Mankato
- Melanie Cole, School Engagement Social Worker for Otter Tail County Human Services and member of the Fergus Falls School Board
- Carrie Duba, MTSS Coordinator and Systems Coach at Northfield Public Schools
- Cindy Santa, Family Engagement Navigator at Northfield Promise
- Leah Johnson, Prairie Island Tribal Member and Middle School Liaison for Red Wing Public Schools
- Rob Metz, Deputy Director at BARR Center
- Josh Omang, Principal of Detroit Lakes High School
- Julia Messenger, Assistant Director of Mental Health and Emotional Wellness at Anoka Hennepin School District
- Britt Olean, District School Social Worker at Anoka Hennepin School District
- Kathy Kimani, Director of the Office of School Support at Saint Paul Public Schools
- Tara Cliff, President of School Nurse Organization of Minnesota
- Ashley Hanson-Oni, Social Worker at Bloomington Public Schools
- Carol Nannemann, McKinney Vento District Liaison at Bloomington Public Schools

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 4:41 PM.



Student Attendance and Truancy Legislative Study Group

Monday, September 9, 2024
2:30 PM
Ladyslipper Room, Centennial Office
Building and Zoom
<https://www.lcc.mn.gov/satlsq/>

Members Present:

Representative Heather Keeler, Chair
Representative Ben Bakeberg
Representative Bryan Lawrence
Representative Bianca Virnig

Senator Steve Cwodzinski
Senator Robert Farnsworth

Members Excused:

Senator Mary Kunesh, Vice Chair

Meeting Minutes

Rep. Keeler called the meeting of the Student Attendance and Truancy Legislative Study Group to order at 2:36 PM. A quorum was present.

Approval of August 26, 2024, Minutes

Rep. Bakeberg moved to approve the minutes of the August 26, 2024, meeting of the Student Attendance and Truancy Legislative Study Group. A vote was taken. The motion prevailed and the minutes were approved.

Testimony from Students

The Study Group heard from several students about student attendance and truancy:

- *Priscilla, Student at BlueSky Online*
- *Isiah, Student at Camden High School, Minneapolis*
- *Madeline, Student at Southwest High School, Minneapolis*
- *Karl, Student at Fergus Falls Area Learning Center*
- *Bianca, Student at Fergus Falls Area Learning Center*
- *Nyssa, Student at Duluth East High School*

Ed Allies Presentation

Matt Shaver, Policy Director at Ed Allies presented to the Study Group on student attendance data.

Member Discussion

The Study Group discussed their takeaways from previous testimony and future plans.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 4:37 PM.



Student Attendance and Truancy Legislative Study Group

Monday, September 23, 2024
2:30 PM
Zoom
<https://www.lcc.mn.gov/satlsq/>

Members Present:

Representative Heather Keeler, Chair
Representative Ben Bakeberg
Representative Bryan Lawrence
Representative Bianca Virnig

Senator Mary Kunesh, Vice Chair
Senator Robert Farnsworth

Members Excused:

Senator Steve Cwodziński

Meeting Minutes

Rep. Bakeberg called the meeting of the Student Attendance and Truancy Legislative Study Group to order at 2:32 PM. A quorum was present.

Approval of September 9, 2024, Minutes

Rep. Lawrence moved to approve the minutes of the September 9, 2024, meeting of the Student Attendance and Truancy Legislative Study Group. A vote was taken. The motion prevailed and the minutes were approved.

Minnesota Department of Education Presentation

The Study Group heard from the several individuals at the Minnesota Department of Education about school attendance.

- Angela Mansfield, Assistant Commissioner of Educational Opportunity
- Lana Peterson, Director of Data Practices and Analytics
- Michael Diedrich, Elementary and Secondary Education Act Policy Analyst

Department of Children, Youth, and Families Introduction

Bharti Wahi, Interim Assistant Commissioner of Child Safety and Permanency at the Department of Children, Youth, and Families presented to the Study Group about the progress of the department's creation and the department's role in dealing with truancy.

Education Commission of the States Presentation

Joel Moore, Assistant Director of State Relations, and Lauren Bloomquist, Policy Analyst, of the Education Commission of the States presented to the Study Group on the efforts of other states to deal with truancy and student attendance.

Member Discussion

The Study Group discussed their takeaways from previous testimony and future plans.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 4:20 PM.



Student Attendance and Truancy Legislative Study Group

Monday, October 7, 2024
2:30 PM
Ladyslipper Room, Centennial Office
Building and Zoom
<https://www.lcc.mn.gov/satlsq/>

Members Present:

Representative Heather Keeler, Chair
Representative Ben Bakeberg
Representative Bryan Lawrence
Representative Bianca Virnig

Senator Mary Kunesh, Vice Chair
Senator Robert Farnsworth

Members Excused:

Senator Steve Cwodziński

Meeting Minutes

Rep. Keeler called the meeting of the Student Attendance and Truancy Legislative Study Group to order at 2:31 PM. A quorum was present.

Approval of September 23, 2024, Minutes

Sen. Kunesh moved to approve the minutes of the September 23, 2024, meeting of the Student Attendance and Truancy Legislative Study Group. A vote was taken. The motion prevailed and the minutes were approved.

Counties Presentation

Nikki Conway, Child Welfare Manager at Scott County, and Jim Miklausich, Assistant Superintendent at Shakopee Public Schools, presented to the Study Group about how the two organizations are working together to reduce student truancy.

Roundtable Discussion

The Study Group invited several stakeholders to join the table and discuss potential bipartisan recommendations the Study Group can make.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 4:35 PM.



Student Attendance and Truancy Legislative Study Group

Monday, October 21, 2024
2:30 PM
Zoom
<https://www.lcc.mn.gov/satlsq/>

Members Present:

Representative Heather Keeler, Chair
Representative Ben Bakeberg
Representative Bryan Lawrence
Representative Bianca Virnig

Senator Mary Kunesch, Vice Chair
Senator Robert Farnsworth

Members Excused:

Senator Steve Cwodziński

Meeting Minutes

Rep. Keeler called the meeting of the Student Attendance and Truancy Legislative Study Group to order at 2:35 PM. A quorum was present.

Approval of October 7, 2024, Minutes

Rep. Virnig moved to approve the minutes of the October 7, 2024, meeting of the Student Attendance and Truancy Legislative Study Group. A vote was taken. The motion prevailed and the minutes were approved.

Preliminary Recommendation Discussion

The Study Group discussed possible recommendations for its report.

Rep. Lawrence moved the Study Group charge Chair Keeler and staff to move forward with eight topics for recommendations:

1. Definitions
2. Agency interaction
3. Community engagement - Cultural/lived experience school credit
4. MDE recommendation – increased data on truancy
5. Increased data sharing between school districts and county governments
6. Liaison role
7. Transportation
8. Community support - hiring outside services for schools

A vote was taken. The motion prevailed.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 4:05 PM.



Student Attendance and Truancy Legislative Study Group

Monday, November 18, 2024
2:30 PM
Room G-3, State Capitol
<https://www.lcc.mn.gov/satlsdg/>

Members Present:

Representative Heather Keeler, Chair
Representative Ben Bakeberg
Representative Bryan Lawrence
Representative Bianca Virnig

Senator Mary Kunesh, Vice Chair
Senator Steve Cwodzinski
Senator Robert Farnsworth
Senator Michael Kreun

Meeting Minutes

Rep. Keeler called the meeting of the Student Attendance and Truancy Legislative Study Group to order at 2:32 PM. A quorum was present.

Approval of October 21, 2024, Minutes

Rep. Lawrence moved to approve the minutes of the October 21, 2024, meeting of the Student Attendance and Truancy Legislative Study Group. A vote was taken. The motion prevailed and the minutes were approved.

Staff Overview of Preliminary Report Recommendations

The Study Group heard an overview of the recommendations in the preliminary report from Nick Nigro, LCC Research Analyst.

Public Testimony on Preliminary Report Recommendations

The Study Group heard testimony from members of the public about the recommendations in its preliminary report:

- Michelle Bryant, School Social Worker at Susan Lindgren Elementary School (St. Louis Park)
- Matt Shaver, Policy Director at EdAllies
- Claire Eckley, Pacer Coalition
- Cathy Manning, Pacer Coalition
- Priscilla Mayowa, Director at Minnesota Youth Council

- Ashley Hightower, Community Engagement and Strategy Manager at Hennepin County Attorney's Office Be@School Program
- Terry Morrow, General Counsel at Minnesota School Boards Association and Nicollet County Commissioner
- Roger Aronson, Minnesota Association of Secondary School Principals and Minnesota Elementary School Principals Association
- Jessica Heiser, youth Services/Education Team Leader at Minnesota Disability Law Center, Mid-Minnesota Legal Aid
- Rick Heller, Twice Exceptional Advocate

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 4:16 PM.



Student Attendance and Truancy Legislative Study Group

Monday, December 2, 2024
2:30 PM
Remote Via Zoom
<https://www.lcc.mn.gov/satlszg/>

Members Present:

Representative Heather Keeler, Chair
Representative Ben Bakeberg
Representative Bryan Lawrence
Representative Bianca Virnig

Senator Mary Kunesch, Vice Chair
Senator Steve Cwodzinski
Senator Robert Farnsworth
Senator Michael Kreun

Meeting Minutes

Rep. Keeler called the meeting of the Student Attendance and Truancy Legislative Study Group to order at 2:33 PM. A quorum was present.

Approval of November 18, 2024, Minutes

Representative Virnig moved to approve the minutes of the November 18, 2024, meeting of the Student Attendance and Truancy Legislative Study Group. Representative Lawrence provided the second. A vote was taken. The motion prevailed and the minutes were approved.

Presentations

The Study Group heard from several school districts and their involvement in the Pilot Program:

- Chisholm Public Schools
- Moorhead Public Schools
- Rochester Public Schools
- Mankato Public Schools
- Red Lake School District
- Minneapolis Public Schools
- Cook County Public Schools
- Windom Public Schools
- Sauk Rapids-Rice Public Schools
- Northfield Public Schools
- Burnsville-Eagan-Savage Public Schools
- Columbia Heights Public Schools

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 4:51 PM.



Student Attendance and Truancy Legislative Study Group

Monday, December 16, 2024
2:30 PM
Room G-3, State Capitol
<https://www.lcc.mn.gov/satlsg/>

Members Present:

Representative Heather Keeler, Chair
Representative Ben Bakeberg
Representative Bryan Lawrence
Representative Bianca Virnig

Senator Mary Kunesh, Vice Chair
Senator Steve Cwodzinski
Senator Robert Farnsworth
Senator Michael Kreun

Meeting Minutes

Rep. Keeler called the meeting of the Student Attendance and Truancy Legislative Study Group to order at 2:31 PM. A quorum was present.

Approval of October 21, 2024, Minutes

Rep. Lawrence moved to approve the minutes of the October 21, 2024, meeting of the Student Attendance and Truancy Legislative Study Group. A vote was taken. The motion prevailed and the minutes were approved.

Member Discussion on Final Recommendations

The Study Group discussed its preliminary recommendations and potential final recommendations.

Rep. Keeler moved to adopt the CP006 draft legislation as a recommendation in the final report. A vote was taken. The motion prevailed and the recommendation was adopted.

Rep. Bakeberg moved to adopt the proposed eight recommendations in the final report:

1. Explore Consistent Definitions around Attendance
2. Explore Coordination Among State and Local Agencies
3. Explore Community Engagement - Cultural/Lived Experience School Credit

4. MDE Recommendation – Explore Increased Data on Attendance
5. Explore Increased Data Sharing Between School Districts and County Governments
6. Explore School Staff Dedicated to Truancy Reduction
7. Explore Transportation of Students to and from School
8. Explore Community Support

A vote was taken. The motion prevailed and the recommendation was adopted.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 4:16 PM.



Student Attendance and Truancy Legislative Study Group

Friday, December 20, 2024
2:30 PM
Remote via Zoom
<https://www.lcc.mn.gov/satlszg/>

Members Present:

Representative Heather Keeler, Chair
Representative Ben Bakeberg
Representative Bryan Lawrence

Senator Steve Cwodzinski
Senator Robert Farnsworth
Senator Michael Kreun

Members Excused:

Representative Bianca Virnig
Senator Mary Kunesh, Vice Chair

Meeting Minutes

Rep. Keeler called the meeting of the Student Attendance and Truancy Legislative Study Group to order at 2:32 PM. A quorum was present.

Approval of December 16, 2024, Minutes

Rep. Keeler moved to approve the minutes of the December 16, 2024, meeting of the Student Attendance and Truancy Legislative Study Group. A vote was taken. The motion prevailed and the minutes were approved.

Adoption of Final Report

The Study Group reviewed the final report.

Rep. Bakeberg moved to adopt the final report and authorize staff to include today's minutes and any technical changes that are necessary. A vote was taken. The motion prevailed and the report was adopted.

Approval of December 20, 2024, Minutes

Rep. Keeler moved to approve the minutes of the December 20, 2024, meeting of the Student Attendance and Truancy Legislative Study Group as prepared by staff and approved by the chair and vice chair. A vote was taken. The motion prevailed and the minutes were approved.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 2:40 PM.