



101ST GENERAL ASSEMBLY

State of Illinois

2019 and 2020

SB4023

Introduced 1/4/2021, by Sen. Jacqueline Y. Collins

SYNOPSIS AS INTRODUCED:

105 ILCS 5/2-3.164

Amends the School Code. Requires the Attendance Commission to include in its annual recommendations made to the General Assembly and the State Board of Education mechanisms to facilitate a statewide, cross-sector study and analysis of prekindergarten through grade 12 student attendance and absenteeism rates occurring throughout the duration of the use of remote learning as a result of the COVID-19 public health emergency. Requires the study and analysis to focus on the ensuing impact that remote learning has had on students, schools, and communities while also examining the disparities in the equity of accessibility and availability of learning resources that have impeded the attendance and academic success of students and that have been highlighted by the COVID-19 pandemic. Extends the date that the Commission is abolished to December 16, 2022 (from December 16, 2020). Effective immediately.

LRB101 22441 CMG 73520 b

1 AN ACT concerning education.

2 **Be it enacted by the People of the State of Illinois,**
3 **represented in the General Assembly:**

4 Section 5. The School Code is amended by changing Section
5 2-3.164 as follows:

6 (105 ILCS 5/2-3.164)

7 (Section scheduled to be repealed on December 16, 2020)

8 Sec. 2-3.164. Attendance Commission.

9 (a) The Attendance Commission is created within the State
10 Board of Education to study the issue of chronic absenteeism in
11 this State and make recommendations for strategies to prevent
12 chronic absenteeism. The Commission shall consist of all of the
13 following members:

14 (1) The Director of the Department of Children and
15 Family Services or his or her designee.

16 (2) The Chairperson of the State Board of Education or
17 his or her designee.

18 (3) The Chairperson of the Board of Higher Education or
19 his or her designee.

20 (4) The Secretary of the Department of Human Services
21 or his or her designee.

22 (5) The Director of the Department of Public Health or
23 his or her designee.

1 (6) The Chairperson of the Illinois Community College
2 Board or his or her designee.

3 (7) The Chairperson of the State Charter School
4 Commission or his or her designee.

5 (8) An individual that deals with children's
6 disabilities, impairments, and social emotional issues,
7 appointed by the State Superintendent of Education.

8 (9) One member from each of the following
9 organizations, appointed by the State Superintendent of
10 Education:

11 (A) A non-profit organization that advocates for
12 students in temporary living situations.

13 (B) An Illinois-focused, non-profit organization
14 that advocates for the well-being of all children and
15 families in this State.

16 (C) An Illinois non-profit, anti-crime
17 organization of law enforcement that researches and
18 recommends early learning and youth development
19 strategies to reduce crime.

20 (D) An Illinois non-profit organization that
21 conducts community-organizing around family issues.

22 (E) A statewide professional teachers'
23 organization.

24 (F) A different statewide professional teachers'
25 organization.

26 (G) A professional teachers' organization in a

1 city having a population exceeding 500,000.

2 (H) An association representing school
3 administrators.

4 (I) An association representing school board
5 members.

6 (J) An association representing school principals.

7 (K) An association representing regional
8 superintendents of schools.

9 (L) An association representing parents.

10 (M) An association representing high school
11 districts.

12 (N) An association representing large unit
13 districts.

14 (O) An organization that advocates for healthier
15 school environments in Illinois.

16 (P) An organization that advocates for the health
17 and safety of Illinois youth and families by providing
18 capacity building services.

19 (Q) A statewide association of local philanthropic
20 organizations that advocates for effective
21 educational, health, and human service policies to
22 improve this State's communities.

23 (R) A statewide organization that advocates for
24 partnerships among schools, families, and the
25 community that provide access to support and remove
26 barriers to learning and development, using schools as

1 hubs.

2 (S) An organization representing statewide
3 programs actively involved in truancy intervention.

4 Attendance Commission members shall serve without
5 compensation but shall be reimbursed for their travel expenses
6 from appropriations to the State Board of Education available
7 for that purpose and subject to the rules of the appropriate
8 travel control board.

9 (b) The Attendance Commission shall meet initially at the
10 call of the State Superintendent of Education. The members
11 shall elect a chairperson at their initial meeting. Thereafter,
12 the Attendance Commission shall meet at the call of the
13 chairperson. The Attendance Commission shall hold hearings on a
14 periodic basis to receive testimony from the public regarding
15 attendance.

16 (c) The Attendance Commission shall identify strategies,
17 mechanisms, and approaches to help parents, educators,
18 principals, superintendents, and the State Board of Education
19 address and prevent chronic absenteeism and shall recommend to
20 the General Assembly and State Board of Education:

21 (1) a standard for attendance and chronic absenteeism,
22 defining attendance as a calculation of standard clock
23 hours in a day that equal a full day based on instructional
24 minutes for both a half day and a full day per learning
25 environment;

26 (2) mechanisms to improve data systems to monitor and

1 track chronic absenteeism across this State in a way that
2 identifies trends from prekindergarten through grade 12
3 and allows the identification of students who need
4 individualized chronic absenteeism prevention plans;

5 (3) mechanisms for reporting and accountability for
6 schools and districts across this State, including
7 creating multiple measure indexes for reporting;

8 (4) best practices for utilizing attendance and
9 chronic absenteeism data to create multi-tiered systems of
10 support and prevention that will result in students being
11 ready for college and career; ~~and~~

12 (5) new initiatives and responses to ongoing
13 challenges presented by chronic absenteeism; ~~and~~

14 (6) mechanisms to facilitate a statewide, cross-sector
15 study and analysis of prekindergarten through grade 12
16 student attendance and absenteeism rates occurring
17 throughout the duration of the use of remote learning under
18 Sections 10-30 and 34-18.66 and initially implemented
19 during the spring term of the 2019-2020 school year as a
20 result of the COVID-19 public health emergency. The study
21 and analysis must focus on the ensuing impact that remote
22 learning has had on students, schools, and communities
23 while also examining the disparities in the equity of
24 accessibility and availability of learning resources that
25 have impeded the attendance and academic success of
26 students and that have been highlighted by the COVID-19

1 pandemic.

2 (d) The State Board of Education shall provide
3 administrative support to the Commission. The Attendance
4 Commission shall submit an initial report to the General
5 Assembly and the State Board of Education no later than March
6 15, 2016. The Attendance Commission shall submit an annual
7 report to the General Assembly and the State Board of Education
8 no later than December 15, 2016 and each December 15
9 thereafter.

10 (e) The Attendance Commission is abolished and this Section
11 is repealed on December 16, 2022 ~~2020~~.

12 (Source: P.A. 99-432, eff. 8-21-15; 99-601, eff. 7-22-16;
13 99-642, eff. 7-28-16.)

14 Section 99. Effective date. This Act takes effect upon
15 becoming law.