

P.L. 2025, CHAPTER 181, *approved December 23, 2025*
Senate, No. 3776 (*Third Reprint*)

- 1 AN ACT establishing the Chronic Absenteeism Task Force.
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- 3 **BE IT ENACTED** *by the Senate and General Assembly of the State*
4 *of New Jersey:*
5
- 6 1. a. There is established the “Chronic Absenteeism Task
7 Force,” to assess chronic absenteeism in the State’s public schools.
8 b. The task force shall consist of ¹[17] ²[18¹] 20² members as
9 follows:
10 (1) the Commissioner of Education, ex officio, or a designee;
11 (2) four members of the public, each of whom has specialized
12 knowledge or expertise in issues related to the work of the task
13 force. One of the public members shall be appointed ³by the
14 Governor upon recommendation³ by the Senate President, one shall
15 be appointed ³by the Governor upon recommendation³ by the
16 Senate Minority Leader, one shall be appointed ³by the Governor
17 upon recommendation³ by the Speaker of the General Assembly,
18 and one shall be appointed ³by the Governor upon
19 recommendation³ by the Assembly Minority Leader; and
20 (3) ¹[12] ²[13¹] 15² public members appointed by the
21 Governor ³[, who] . Eleven of the 15 public members³ shall
22 include: one member of the State Board of Education; ³[two
23 members] one member³ upon the recommendation of the New
24 Jersey Education Association; ³[two members] one member³ upon
25 the recommendation of the American Federation of Teachers New
26 Jersey; one member upon the recommendation of the New Jersey
27 School Boards Association; ³[two members] one member³ upon the
28 recommendation of the New Jersey Principals and Supervisors
29 Association; ³[two members] one member³ upon the
30 recommendation of the New Jersey Association of School
31 Administrators; one member upon the recommendation of the
32 Statewide Parent Advocacy Network; ¹one member ²upon the
33 recommendation² of the New Jersey Public Charter Schools
34 Association;¹ ²one member upon the recommendation of the Jobs
35 for America’s Graduates New Jersey; one member upon the
36 recommendation of the Princeton Area Community Foundation;²
37 and one member upon the recommendation of the Garden State
38 Coalition of Schools.

EXPLANATION – Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets [thus] in the above bill is not enacted and is intended to be omitted in the law.

Matter underlined thus is new matter.

Matter enclosed in superscript numerals has been adopted as follows:

¹Senate SED committee amendments adopted May 12, 2025.

²Assembly AED committee amendments adopted June 16, 2025.

³Senate amendments adopted in accordance with Governor's recommendations December 18, 2025.

1 c. The appointments to the task force shall be made within 30
2 days of the effective date of this act. Vacancies in the membership
3 of the task force shall be filled in the same manner as the original
4 appointments were made. Members of the task force shall serve
5 without compensation, but shall be reimbursed for necessary
6 expenditures incurred in the performance of their duties as members
7 of the task force within the limits of funds appropriated or
8 otherwise made available to the task force for its purposes.

9 d. The task force shall organize as soon as practicable, but no
10 later than 30 days following the appointment of its members. The
11 task force shall choose a chairperson from among its members. The
12 chairperson shall appoint a secretary who need not be a member of
13 the task force. ³A majority of the authorized membership shall
14 constitute a quorum.³

15 e. The Department of Education shall provide stenographic,
16 clerical, and other administrative assistants, and any professional
17 staff as the task force requires to carry out its work. The task force
18 ³shall also be entitled to call to its may request the³ assistance
19 and ³avail itself of the³ services of the employees of any State,
20 county, or municipal department, board, bureau, commission, or
21 agency as it may require and as may be available for its purposes.

22
23 2. It shall be the duty of the Chronic Absenteeism Task Force
24 to:

25 a. examine and compare current and pre-pandemic data on
26 chronic absenteeism in the State;

27 b. analyze the root causes of chronic absenteeism, which may
28 include, but are not limited to, barriers to attendance, aversion to
29 school, disengagement from school, and misconceptions about the
30 impact of absences;

31 c. examine the role of mental health and school climate in
32 chronic absenteeism rates;

33 d. analyze and develop recommendations regarding the impact
34 of absences due to exposure to COVID-19 and student discipline
35 policies;

36 e. research best practices that other states have implemented to
37 address chronic absenteeism that may be replicated in the State; and

38 f. develop recommendations on the most effective ways for
39 school districts to promote family engagement to combat chronic
40 absenteeism.

41
42 3. The Chronic Absenteeism Task Force shall issue a final
43 report to the Governor, and the Legislature pursuant to section 2 of
44 P.L.1991, c.164 (C.52:14-19.1), no later than ¹one year ³six
45 months¹ one year³ after the organization of the task force. The
46 report shall contain the task force's findings and recommendations,

1 including any recommendations for legislation that it deems
2 appropriate.

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4 4. This act shall take effect immediately, and the task force
5 shall expire 30 days after the issuance of its final report.

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10 Establishes Chronic Absenteeism Task Force.