

[First Reprint]

## **ASSEMBLY, No. 2192**

# **STATE OF NEW JERSEY**

## **218th LEGISLATURE**

INTRODUCED JANUARY 29, 2018

**Sponsored by:**

**Assemblywoman VALERIE VAINIERI HUTTLE**

**District 37 (Bergen)**

**Assemblyman RALPH R. CAPUTO**

**District 28 (Essex)**

**Assemblywoman MILA M. JASEY**

**District 27 (Essex and Morris)**

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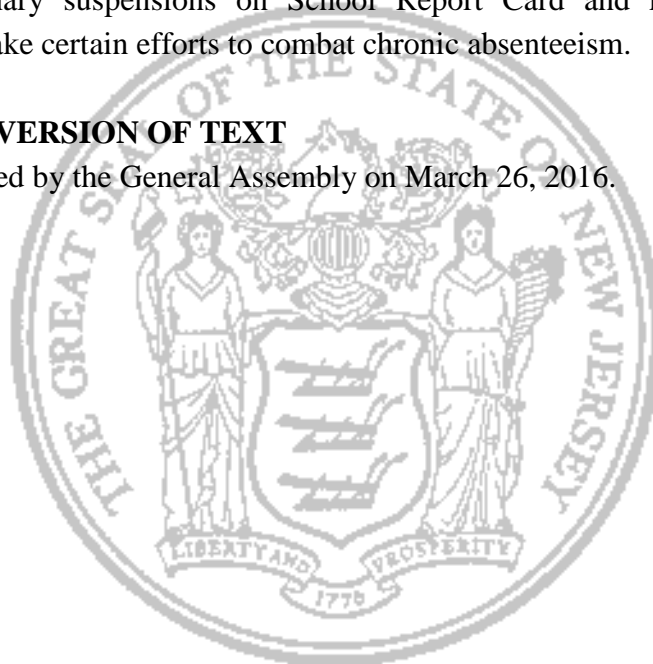
**Assemblyman Johnson, Assemblywomen Murphy, Mosquera, Pinkin,  
Tucker, McKnight, Reynolds-Jackson and Assemblyman Schaer**

### **SYNOPSIS**

Requires Commissioner of Education to include data on chronic absenteeism and disciplinary suspensions on School Report Card and requires public schools to make certain efforts to combat chronic absenteeism.

### **CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT**

As amended by the General Assembly on March 26, 2016.



**(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 4/13/2018)**

1 AN ACT concerning student attendance records, amending  
2 P.L.1995, c.235, and supplementing chapter 38 of Title 18A of  
3 the New Jersey Statutes.

4  
5 **BE IT ENACTED** *by the Senate and General Assembly of the State*  
6 *of New Jersey:*

7  
8 1. Section 3 of P.L.1995, c.235 (C.18A:7E-3) is amended to  
9 read as follows:

10 3. Report cards issued pursuant to section 2 of this act shall  
11 include, but not be limited to, the following information for:

12 a. the school district and for each school within the district, as  
13 appropriate:

- 14 (1) results of the elementary assessment programs;
- 15 (2) results of the Early Warning Test;
- 16 (3) results of the High School Proficiency Test;
- 17 (4) daily attendance records for students and professional staff;
- 18 (5) student graduation and dropout rates;
- 19 (6) annual student scores on the Scholastic Aptitude Test;
- 20 (7) total student enrollment, percentage of limited English  
21 proficient students, percentage of students in advanced placement  
22 courses, and any other school characteristics which the  
23 commissioner deems appropriate;

24 (8) instructional resources including teacher/student ratio,  
25 average class size and amount of instructional time per day, as  
26 calculated by formulas specified by the commissioner;

27 (9) a written narrative by the school principal or a designee  
28 which describes any special achievements, events, problems or  
29 initiatives of the school or district;

30 (10) data identifying the number and nature of all reports of  
31 harassment, intimidation, or bullying; **[and]**

32 (11) indicators of student career readiness;

33 (12) the number and percentage of students who were  
34 chronically absent, as defined in rules and regulations promulgated  
35 by the Commissioner of Education within 90 days of the effective  
36 date of P.L. , c. (C. ) (pending before the Legislature as this  
37 bill) <sup>1</sup>, including the number and percentage of students who were  
38 chronically absent disaggregated by multiple student subgroups to  
39 be determined by the commissioner<sup>1</sup> ; and

40 (13) the number and percentage of students who received a  
41 disciplinary suspension; and

42 b. the school district, as appropriate:

- 43 (1) per pupil expenditures and State aid ratio;
- 44 (2) percent of budget allocated for salaries and benefits of  
45 administrative personnel;

**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:

<sup>1</sup>Assembly floor amendments adopted March 26, 2016.

- 1 (3) percent of budget allocated for salaries and benefits of  
2 teachers;
- 3 (4) percentage increase over the previous year for salaries and  
4 benefits of administrative and instructional personnel;
- 5 (5) the number of administrative personnel and the ratio of  
6 administrative personnel to instructional personnel;
- 7 (6) a profile of the most recent graduating class concerning  
8 their educational or employment plans following graduation; and
- 9 (7) any other information which the commissioner deems  
10 appropriate.

11 For the purposes of this section, the Commissioner of Education  
12 shall establish a uniform methodology for the reporting of the data  
13 concerning administrative personnel on a full-time equivalent basis.  
14 (cf: P.L.2014, c.71)

15

16 2. (New section) a. As used in this section, “chronically absent”  
17 shall be defined in rules and regulations promulgated by the  
18 Commissioner of Education within 90 days of the effective date of  
19 P.L. , c. (C. ) (pending before the Legislature as this bill).

20 b. In the event that 10 percent or more of the students enrolled in  
21 a public school are chronically absent, the school shall develop a  
22 corrective action plan to improve absenteeism rates. The corrective  
23 action plan shall include, but need not be limited to, the following:

- 24 (1) identifying problems and barriers to school attendance;
- 25 (2) developing recommendations to address the problems and  
26 barriers to school attendance that have been identified;
- 27 (3) outlining communication strategies to educate and inform  
28 parents on the importance of school attendance;
- 29 (4) establishing protocols on informing and engaging parents when  
30 a child begins to show a pattern of absences; and
- 31 (5) reviewing school policies to ensure that they support improved  
32 school attendance.

33 In developing the corrective action plan, the school shall solicit  
34 input from parents of students currently attending the school. The  
35 solicitation shall include, at a minimum, a parental survey that includes  
36 questions related to parents’ beliefs regarding the reasons why students  
37 are chronically absent and recommendations on the best ways to  
38 improve attendance. In developing the corrective action plan, the  
39 school shall engage the school’s parent organization, if one exists, in  
40 identifying the causes of the school’s high absenteeism rate and  
41 possible solutions. If there is no parent organization at the school, the  
42 school shall hold a public meeting to provide parents with an  
43 opportunity to provide input during the development of the corrective  
44 action plan.

45 c. The school shall present the corrective action plan to the board  
46 of education. The school shall annually review and revise the  
47 corrective action plan, and present the revisions to the board, until the  
48 percent of students who are chronically absent is less than 10 percent.

- 1       3. (New section) The Commissioner of Education shall
- 2       annually review the chronic absenteeism rates of each school and
- 3       school district, as included on the School Report Cards issued
- 4       pursuant to section 2 of P.L.1995, c.235 (C.18A:7E-2), and report
- 5       on the rates to the State Board of Education.
- 6
- 7       4. This act shall take effect immediately.