



Matthew L. Blomstedt, Ph.D., Commissioner
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October 1, 2014

Patrick J. O'Donnell, Clerk
Room 2018, State Capitol
P.O. Box 94604
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Clerk O'Donnell:

Nebraska Revised Statute Section 79-527.01 requires that the Council on Student Attendance report its activities to the Legislature on or before October 1 of each year. The following constitutes the Report of the Council on Student Attendance including the attendance data from the 2013-14 school year.

Mission:

The Council shall study and evaluate the data contained in the reports required by section 79-527(2) and develop recommendations to reduce incidents of absenteeism. In addition, the Council shall review school district policies developed under Section 79-209, and consider whether school district policies and practices for addressing absenteeism are operational and effective to address absenteeism.

Participants:

Treva Haugaard
Sarah Graham
Heidi Schutz
Brenda Vosik
Robert Stark
Timothy DeWaard
Aslynd Holmes
Matt Blomstedt
Kerry Winterer
Ellen Brokofsky

To lead and support the preparation of all Nebraskans for learning, earning, and living.

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Report:

A summary report of the 2013-14 attendance data is attached. As the report shows, the overall number and percentage of students who were absent more than twenty school days increased for the second consecutive year to 20,031 students, or 6.84% of the total membership in public schools. Last year, the total number was 16,941 students, or 5.85% of the total membership in public schools. Also attached is a chart with NeSA test scores related to student attendance.

First Meeting

The Council on Student Attendance met for the first time on September 18, 2014, in Lincoln to review its basic purposes, 2013-14 attendance data, and organize a preliminary structure. Council members discussed the importance of understanding the available data and reviewed the recent history of the predecessor efforts through the Truancy Task Force. Council members represent student, school district, parent, community, county attorney and state government viewpoints.

Discussions of the Council will include a clear statewide attendance policy; defining, clarifying, and educating the public on definitions of absences; pinpoint underlying reasons for absences and possible supports (school and families) for those absences; and decreasing referrals to the County Attorney offices while keeping efforts as much as possible at the local level.

The Council will meet in late October to identify key issues, priorities, and an agenda for the next year.

Respectfully submitted,



Matthew L. Blomstedt, Ph.D.
Commissioner of Education on behalf of the
Council on Student Attendance

cc: Senator Kate Sullivan
Senator Brad Ashford

STUDENT ATTENDANCE AND NeSA SCALE SCORES

Nebraska Public Schools 2009-10, 2010-11, 2011-12, 2012-13, 2013-14

	Reading					Math				Science		
	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14
Grade 4 - NeSA												
Students absent less than 20 Days	105	110	112	115	119	103	107	109	113	NA	NA	NA
Students absent greater than 20 Days	84	89	91	92	97	80	83	86	90	NA	NA	NA
Students absent less than 10 Days	106	111	113	116	121	105	108	111	115	NA	NA	NA
Students absent greater than 10 Days	95	101	103	106	109	93	96	98	101	NA	NA	NA
Grade 8 - NeSA												
Students absent less than 20 Days	104	108	110	117	116	100	101	104	106	101	104	107
Students absent greater than 20 Days	83	82	84	89	88	68	71	74	74	75	80	81
Students absent less than 10 Days	107	110	113	120	119	103	104	107	109	104	106	109
Students absent greater than 10 Days	93	96	98	104	104	85	85	89	90	89	92	94
Grade 11 - NeSA												
Students absent less than 20 Days	102	104	106	110	116	98	100	106	108	102	106	107
Students absent greater than 20 Days	72	72	72	78	81	58	62	65	69	78	83	84
Students absent less than 10 Days	107	107	109	114	120	103	105	112	114	104	109	110
Students absent greater than 10 Days	90	87	89	92	97	75	78	81	85	89	93	94

OVERALL ATTENDANCE 2009-10, 2010-11, 2011-12, 2012-13, 2013-14

	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14
More than 10 days absent	82,240 – 29.06%	74,786 – 26.21%	68,461 – 23.78%	72,915 – 25.19%	77,751 – 26.54%
More than 15 days absent	40,627 – 14.36%	35,091 – 12.30%	31,668 – 11.00%	33,218 – 11.48%	37,548 – 12.82%
More than 20 days absent	21,964 – 7.76%	18,079 – 6.34%	16,274 – 5.65%	16,941 – 5.85%	20,031 – 6.84%

PRELIMINARY State Average Scale Score Range 1-200

State Average Reading Scale Scores: Scale Score Range 0-200

	2009-2010	2010-2011	2011-2012	2012-2013	2013-2014	Compare
Grade 3	101	104	109	111	114	Higher
Grade 4	104	109	112	115	119	Higher
Grade 5	101	108	114	118	121	Higher
Grade 6	101	109	113	115	119	Higher
Grade 7	104	110	116	122	126	Higher
Grade 8	102	106	109	115	114	Lower
Grade 11	101	102	102	106	110	Higher

State Average Math Scale Scores: Scale Score Range 0-200

	2010-2011	2011-2012	2012-2013	2013-2014	Compare
Grade 3	101	108	110	112	Higher
Grade 4	104	106	109	112	Higher
Grade 5	101	108	109	112	Higher
Grade 6	101	106	106	109	Higher
Grade 7	104	104	106	109	Higher
Grade 8	102	99	102	104	Higher
Grade 11	101	95	100	102	Higher

State Average Science Scale Scores: Scale Score Range 0-200

	2011-2012	2012-2013	2013-2014	Compare
Grade 5	101	104	106	Higher
Grade 8	100	103	105	Higher
Grade 11	99	103	103	Same

**K-12 MEMBERSHIP AND STUDENTS WITH MORE THAN 10/15/20 DAYS TOTAL ABSENCES
 ABSENCES DATA FROM NSSRS: 2013-2014 STUDENT SUMMARY ATTENDANCE TEMPLATE**

STATEWIDE SUMMARY

	STUDENT COUNT	% OF MEMBERSHIP
MEMBERSHIP	292,941	
STUDENTS WITH MORE THAN 10 DAYS TOTAL ABSENCES	77,751	26.54%
STUDENTS WITH MORE THAN 15 DAYS TOTAL ABSENCES	37,548	12.82%
STUDENTS WITH MORE THAN 20 DAYS TOTAL ABSENCES	20,031	6.84%

GRADE	MEMBERSHIP	STUDENTS WITH MORE THAN 10 DAYS TOTAL ABSENCES	% STUDENTS WITH MORE THAN 10 DAYS TOTAL ABSENCES	STUDENTS WITH MORE THAN 15 DAYS TOTAL ABSENCES	% STUDENTS WITH MORE THAN 15 DAYS TOTAL ABSENCES	STUDENTS WITH MORE THAN 20 DAYS TOTAL ABSENCES	% STUDENTS WITH MORE THAN 20 DAYS TOTAL ABSENCES
KG	24,025	5,344	22.24%	2,078	8.65%	898	3.74%
01	21,980	4,131	18.79%	1,531	6.97%	634	2.88%
02	23,249	4,002	17.21%	1,421	6.11%	530	2.28%
03	22,911	3,834	16.73%	1,354	5.91%	508	2.22%
04	23,097	3,952	17.11%	1,384	5.99%	523	2.26%
05	22,644	4,157	18.36%	1,566	6.92%	650	2.87%
06	22,441	4,707	20.98%	1,869	8.33%	817	3.64%
07	22,228	5,767	25.94%	2,610	11.74%	1,165	5.24%
08	22,084	6,494	29.41%	3,067	13.89%	1,518	6.87%
09	22,021	7,102	32.25%	3,739	16.98%	2,165	9.83%
10	21,860	8,327	38.09%	4,757	21.76%	2,870	13.13%
11	21,533	9,370	43.51%	5,700	26.47%	3,583	16.64%
12	22,868	10,564	46.20%	6,472	28.30%	4,170	18.24%
TOTAL	292,941	77,751	26.54%	37,548	12.82%	20,031	6.84%

RACE/ETHNICITY	MEMBERSHIP	STUDENTS WITH MORE THAN 10 DAYS TOTAL ABSENCES	% STUDENTS WITH MORE THAN 10 DAYS TOTAL ABSENCES	STUDENTS WITH MORE THAN 15 DAYS TOTAL ABSENCES	% STUDENTS WITH MORE THAN 15 DAYS TOTAL ABSENCES	STUDENTS WITH MORE THAN 20 DAYS TOTAL ABSENCES	% STUDENTS WITH MORE THAN 20 DAYS TOTAL ABSENCES
AMERICAN INDIAN OR ALASKA NATIVE	4,072	2,129	52.28%	1,395	34.26%	880	21.61%
ASIAN	6,750	1,112	16.47%	519	7.69%	276	4.09%
BLACK OR AFRICAN AMERICAN	19,349	7,574	39.14%	4,529	23.41%	2,802	14.48%
HISPANIC	50,231	16,409	32.67%	8,594	17.11%	4,833	9.62%
NATIVE HAWAIIAN OR OTHER PACIFIC ISLANDER	360	118	32.78%	61	16.94%	22	6.11%
TWO OR MORE RACES	9,635	3,239	33.62%	1,714	17.79%	1,012	10.50%
WHITE	202,544	47,170	23.29%	20,736	10.24%	10,206	5.04%
TOTAL	292,941	77,751	26.54%	37,548	12.82%	20,031	6.84%

GENDER	MEMBERSHIP	STUDENTS WITH MORE THAN 10 DAYS TOTAL ABSENCES	% STUDENTS WITH MORE THAN 10 DAYS TOTAL ABSENCES	STUDENTS WITH MORE THAN 15 DAYS TOTAL ABSENCES	% STUDENTS WITH MORE THAN 15 DAYS TOTAL ABSENCES	STUDENTS WITH MORE THAN 20 DAYS TOTAL ABSENCES	% STUDENTS WITH MORE THAN 20 DAYS TOTAL ABSENCES
FEMALE	142,142	38,742	27.26%	18,472	13.00%	9,684	6.81%
MALE	150,799	39,009	25.87%	19,076	12.65%	10,347	6.86%
TOTAL	292,941	77,751	26.54%	37,548	12.82%	20,031	6.84%

INDICATORS	MEMBERSHIP	STUDENTS WITH MORE THAN 10 DAYS TOTAL ABSENCES	% STUDENTS WITH MORE THAN 10 DAYS TOTAL ABSENCES	STUDENTS WITH MORE THAN 15 DAYS TOTAL ABSENCES	% STUDENTS WITH MORE THAN 15 DAYS TOTAL ABSENCES	STUDENTS WITH MORE THAN 20 DAYS TOTAL ABSENCES	% STUDENTS WITH MORE THAN 20 DAYS TOTAL ABSENCES
POVERTY	131,846	46,651	35.38%	25,122	19.05%	14,142	10.73%
SPECIAL EDUCATION	42,105	15,409	36.60%	8,560	20.33%	5,083	12.07%

POVERTY = Y STUDENTS ONLY							
RACE/ETHNICITY	MEMBERSHIP	STUDENTS WITH MORE THAN 10 DAYS TOTAL ABSENCES	% STUDENTS WITH MORE THAN 10 DAYS TOTAL ABSENCES	STUDENTS WITH MORE THAN 15 DAYS TOTAL ABSENCES	% STUDENTS WITH MORE THAN 15 DAYS TOTAL ABSENCES	STUDENTS WITH MORE THAN 20 DAYS TOTAL ABSENCES	% STUDENTS WITH MORE THAN 20 DAYS TOTAL ABSENCES
AMERICAN INDIAN OR ALASKA NATIVE	3,228	1,816	56.26%	1,216	37.67%	771	23.88%
ASIAN	3,281	591	18.01%	309	9.42%	186	5.67%
BLACK OR AFRICAN AMERICAN	15,880	6,639	41.81%	4,052	25.52%	2,523	15.89%
HISPANIC	40,789	13,902	34.08%	7,385	18.11%	4,131	10.13%
NATIVE HAWAIIAN OR OTHER PACIFIC ISLANDER	219	87	39.73%	48	21.92%	17	7.76%
TWO OR MORE RACES	5,747	2,364	41.13%	1,312	22.83%	800	13.92%
WHITE	62,702	21,252	33.89%	10,800	17.22%	5,714	9.11%
TOTAL	131,846	46,651	35.38%	25,122	19.05%	14,142	10.73%