



From the Offices of Representatives Wise, Dobson, Rieke Smith and McLain

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Oregon House Passes Bill to Increase Transparency in Student Attendance Data

SALEM, Ore. – The Oregon House today passed [HB 4154](#), legislation that increases transparency and public access to student attendance data across Oregon schools in an attempt to better understand and respond to chronic absenteeism.

Under the bill, the Oregon Department of Education will use existing attendance methodologies to calculate and report the number and percentage of students who are regular attenders and who are chronically absent. The department will also be required to clearly describe the requirements used for determining attendance classifications and note any changes to the methodology from prior years.

“Every student deserves the opportunity to succeed, and that starts with being in the classroom,” said **Rep. Lamar Wise** (D–Southeast Portland). “This bill increases transparency and accountability by ensuring that student attendance data is reported consistently, disaggregated by student group, and made accessible to the public in a clear and responsible way. By providing districts time to review the data and including guidance on how it should be interpreted, this legislation strengthens trust while helping us better understand and address chronic absenteeism across Oregon.”

The legislation requires the Department of Education to calculate attendance metrics using data already reported by school districts and public charter schools and to publish those data four times per year in an easy-to-use public format. Data must be broken down by student groups and accompanied by clear explanations of methodology, any changes in calculation methods and guidance on how the information should be interpreted, including limitations when comparing across districts or time periods.

Rep. April Dobson (D – Happy Valley & N Clackamas County) added: “Students need time to learn. Our absenteeism crisis compounds with Oregon’s shorter than average school year to leave students with too few hours in class to be successful. Better and more timely data is the first step to fixing the problem.””

Before publishing the data each quarter, the department must provide school districts and public charter schools at least 15 business days to review the compiled information and request adjustments, ensuring accuracy and fairness in reporting.

“Student attendance is one of the clearest indicators of whether a child is on track towards academic success. This bill ensures Oregon is collecting clear, consistent attendance data so we can identify challenges earlier and respond with meaningful support,” said **Rep. Rieke Smith** (D - Wilsonville, Sherwood, King City, Tigard). “The bill is about transparency, accountability, and making sure every student can stay engaged, connected, and successful in school. Improvement in how we track attendance results in proactive support for students and families across our state.”

“In my classrooms, I saw that when students show up, they succeed. Regular attendance is the foundation for learning, and we can’t improve outcomes if students aren’t in school,” said **Rep. Susan McLain** (D - Hillsboro, Forest Grove and Cornelius). “Addressing chronic absenteeism is essential to ensuring all students have the support they need. This bill is a practical step toward helping students build strong habits and stay on track.”

HB 4154 now moves to the Senate for consideration.

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