



Chairman Phil Mendelson

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A BILL

IN THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

To amend, on an emergency basis, due to congressional review, Article II of An Act To provide for compulsory school attendance, for the taking of a school census in the District of Columbia, and for other purposes to direct the Mayor to establish a truancy pilot for the purpose of referring students with unexcused absences to the Department of Human Services and documenting attendance and academic outcomes of students receiving interventions from the Department of Human Services.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, That this act may be cited as the “Pilot Truancy Reduction Emergency Amendment Act of 2024.”

Sec. 2. Section 7 of Article II of An Act To provide for compulsory school attendance, for the taking of a school census in the District of Columbia, and for other purposes, effective September 19, 2013 (D.C. Law 20-17; D.C. Official Code § 38-208), is amended by adding a new subsection (c-1) to read as follows:

“(c-1)(1)(A) By August 12, 2024, the Mayor shall identify 5 secondary educational institutions in the District that had a truancy rate greater than 50% in the 2023-2024 school year to participate in a truancy pilot with the Department of Human Services (“DHS”) during School Year 2024-2025.

27 “(B) The Mayor shall notify the identified educational institutions
28 of their participation in the truancy pilot at least 10 business days before the first day of
29 instruction in School Year 2024-2025. The notice shall include appropriate agency contacts,
30 timelines, and procedures for complying with paragraph (2) of this subsection.

31 “(2) The 5 secondary educational institutions identified pursuant to
32 paragraph (1) of this subsection shall refer each student who is 14 years of age through 17 years
33 of age to DHS no later than 2 school days after the accrual of 15 unexcused full school day
34 absences within a school year.

35 “(3) By March 31, 2025, DHS shall publish a preliminary report, and by
36 August 15, 2025, DHS shall publish a final report that:

37 “(A) Describes the interventions and services provided through the
38 truancy pilot;

39 “(B) Provides the 5 most common reasons for unexcused absences
40 for the students referred to DHS, such as housing instability, transportation issues, or medical
41 emergencies;

42 “(C) Presents aggregate data on the 5 most common truancy
43 intervention services or programs that students referred to DHS utilized; and

44 “(D) Provides an analysis that compares:

45 “(i) The attendance outcomes, academic performance, and
46 delinquency status of students referred to DHS to the students’ attendance outcomes, academic
47 performance, and delinquency status during the same time period in the prior school year;

48 “(ii) The attendance outcomes, academic performance, and
49 delinquency status of students referred to DHS before and after the DHS referral during the
50 applicable time period for School Year 2024-2025; and

51 “(iii) The attendance outcomes and academic performance
52 of educational institutions participating in the truancy pilot with the attendance and academic
53 performance during School Year 2024-2025 of non-participating secondary educational
54 institutions that are socio-demographically similar to participating educational institutions.

55 “(4) For purposes of paragraph (3) of this subsection, the term
56 “delinquency status” means whether a minor student was arrested by a law enforcement official
57 during the time period analyzed in the report.

58 “(5) Educational institutions participating in the truancy pilot shall be
59 exempt from the requirements of subsection (c) of this section for minor students who are 14
60 years of age through 17 years of age.”.

61 Sec. 3. Fiscal impact statement.

62 The Council adopts the fiscal impact statement of the Budget Director as the fiscal impact
63 statement required by section 4a of the General Legislative Procedures Act of 1975, approved
64 October 16, 2006 (120 Stat. 2038; D.C. Official Code § 1-301.47a).

65 Sec. 4. Effective date.

66 This act shall take effect following approval by the Mayor (or in the event of veto by the
67 Mayor, action by the Council to override the veto), and shall remain in effect for no longer than
68 90 days, as provided for emergency acts of the Council of the District of Columbia in section
69 412(a) of the District of Columbia Home Rule Act, approved December 24, 1973 (87 Stat. 788;
70 D.C. Official Code § 1-204.12(a)).