

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2025

H.B. 1110
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HOUSE PRINCIPAL CLERK

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HOUSE BILL DRH10609-NHa-207

Short Title: Early Intervention School Attendance Pilot. (Public)

Sponsors: Representative Rhyne.

Referred to:

1 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
2 AN ACT TO ESTABLISH A PILOT PROGRAM TO TEST THE USE OF DATA-DRIVEN
3 ATTENDANCE INTERVENTION SYSTEMS TO REDUCE CHRONIC ABSENTEEISM.

4 Whereas, chronic absenteeism in North Carolina has reached approximately 25
5 percent of enrolled public school students, meaning one in four students misses at least 10 percent
6 of instructional days; and

7 Whereas, chronic absenteeism is a leading indicator of academic underperformance,
8 increased remediation costs, and reduced graduation rates; and

9 Whereas, early intervention and real-time attendance monitoring systems have
10 demonstrated measurable improvements in student attendance and reductions in chronic
11 absenteeism; and

12 Whereas, improving attendance increases the effective utilization of the State's per
13 pupil investment and reduces downstream costs associated with remediation, intervention
14 services, and dropout recovery; Now, therefore,

15 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

16 **SECTION 1.(a)** Purpose. – The Department of Public Instruction shall establish the
17 Student Attendance Early Intervention Pilot Program (Program) to implement a data-driven
18 attendance intervention system in select public schools to reduce chronic absenteeism. The
19 Program shall prioritize implementation within a single public school unit to ensure fidelity of
20 implementation, clear accountability, and operational efficiency. The Program shall begin with
21 the 2026-2027 fiscal year and conclude with the 2027-2028 fiscal year.

22 **SECTION 1.(b)** Selection of Schools. – All public school units may apply to
23 participate in the Program. By September 1, 2026, the Department shall select one public school
24 unit, and the schools within that public school unit, that will participate in the Program in
25 accordance with the following:

- 26 (1) The Program shall cover no more than 15,000 students combined across all
27 selected schools.
- 28 (2) The schools selected shall demonstrate diversity in student demographics,
29 including socioeconomic status, geography, and school-level characteristics
30 sufficient to support a representative pilot.
- 31 (3) The Department shall prioritize selecting schools that have a chronic
32 absenteeism rate above the state average.
- 33 (4) The Department shall consider the public school unit's and school's technical
34 readiness, staffing capacity, and ability to meet implementation time lines,
35 including coordination requirements necessary for successful program
36 deployment.



1 **SECTION 1.(c)** Selection of Vendor. – The Department shall select a vendor to work
2 with the schools in the Program. The vendor shall offer, within a unified, purpose-built, scalable
3 platform, a research-proven attendance intervention solution, including tiered evidence-based
4 workflows, automated bidirectional family engagement, longitudinal documentation of outreach
5 and supports, and statewide reporting and monitoring across selected schools. The Department
6 shall select a participating vendor by September 15, 2026.

7 **SECTION 1.(d)** Implementation Requirements. – Selected public school units and
8 schools shall work with the selected vendor to implement the Program beginning no later than
9 January 1, 2027. To implement the Program, the selected public school units, schools, and vendor
10 shall work together to do all of the following:

- 11 (1) Designate a local program coordinator.
- 12 (2) Implement an attendance system that includes all of the following:
 - 13 a. Real-time attendance monitoring and early warning indicators.
 - 14 b. Automated, two-way communication with families, including
15 multilingual capability.
 - 16 c. Intervention protocols aligned with a multitiered system of supports
17 (MTSS), including intervention workflows for at-risk students.
 - 18 d. Data dashboards for educators and administrators.
 - 19 e. Documentation and compliance tracking aligned with State attendance
20 policies.
 - 21 f. Safeguards for data privacy in compliance with State and federal laws.
- 22 (3) Provide training to staff on system usage and intervention strategies.

23 **SECTION 1.(e)** Funding. – There is appropriated from the General Fund to the
24 Department of Public Instruction the sum of seventy-five thousand dollars (\$75,000) in
25 nonrecurring funds for the 2026-2027 fiscal year to implement the Student Attendance Early
26 Intervention Pilot Program, as authorized by this act. The Department may either contract with a
27 selected vendor to provide services to selected public school units or allocate funds to selected
28 public school units for the public school units or schools to contract with the selected vendor.
29 Funds appropriated by this act shall not revert at the end of the 2026-2027 fiscal year but instead
30 shall remain available until June 30, 2028. The Department and selected public school units may
31 supplement State funds for the Program with eligible federal or philanthropic funding streams.

32 **SECTION 1.(f)** Use of Funds. – Funds appropriated for the Program may be used
33 for any of the following purposes:

- 34 (1) Technology acquisition and licensing.
- 35 (2) Implementation and integration services.
- 36 (3) Training and professional development.
- 37 (4) Program administration and evaluation.

38 **SECTION 1.(g)** School Reporting. – Program implementation shall align with the
39 technical architecture of the selected solution, including integration with a single student
40 information system (SIS) in the participating public school unit. Reporting shall be conducted at
41 the public school unit and school level, and the Department shall aggregate results across
42 participating schools for evaluation purposes. A single, statewide data instance across multiple
43 student information systems shall not be required.

44 **SECTION 1.(h)** Reporting. – No later than February 1, 2028, the Department shall
45 report to the Joint Legislative Education Oversight Committee on the following:

- 46 (1) Measurable reductions in chronic absenteeism due to the Program.
- 47 (2) Improved student engagement and attendance consistency while participating
48 in the Program.
- 49 (3) Operational efficiencies provided by the Program for school staff.

- 1 (4) Any recommendations on statewide expansion of the Program, long-term
2 funding strategies, and integrating statewide data systems and longitudinal
3 data initiatives into the Program.
4 (5) Any other information the Department feels relevant to evaluating the
5 effectiveness of the Program.

6 **SECTION 2.** This act becomes effective July 1, 2026.