

Sixty-ninth
Legislative Assembly
of North Dakota

HOUSE BILL NO. 1129

Introduced by

Representatives Richter, Mitskog, Murphy, O'Brien, Schauer

Senators Boschee, Meyer, Sickler

1 A BILL for an Act to provide an appropriation to the department of public instruction for a study
2 of student attendance and absenteeism; to provide for a superintendent of public instruction
3 study; and to provide for a legislative management report.

4 **BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF NORTH DAKOTA:**

5 **SECTION 1. APPROPRIATION - DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION - STUDENT**
6 **ATTENDANCE AND ABSENTEEISM STUDY - ONE-TIME FUNDING.** There is appropriated
7 out of any moneys in the general fund in the state treasury, not otherwise appropriated, the sum
8 of \$1,250,000, or so much of the sum as may be necessary, to the department of public
9 instruction for the purpose of studying student attendance and absenteeism in kindergarten
10 through grade twelve public schools, for the biennium beginning July 1, 2025, and ending
11 June 30, 2027. Up to \$250,000 may be used for the purpose of contracting a research team
12 from a North Dakota research university to assist with the study. The funding provided in this
13 section is considered a one-time funding item.

14 **SECTION 2. SUPERINTENDENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION STUDY - STUDENT**
15 **ATTENDANCE AND ABSENTEEISM - REPORT TO LEGISLATIVE MANAGEMENT.**

16 1. In the first year of the 2025-27 biennium, the superintendent of public instruction, in
17 collaboration and consultation with a research team from a North Dakota research
18 university, shall study student attendance and absenteeism, including chronic
19 absenteeism in kindergarten through grade twelve public schools. The research team
20 shall use existing quantitative data shared with the university by the department of
21 public instruction and collect additional qualitative and quantitative data as needed.
22 The study must include analysis of data from school districts with high attendance
23 rates to identify any strategies that result in high attendance rates.

- 1 2. In the second year of the 2025-27 biennium, the superintendent of public instruction
- 2 shall identify school districts with chronic absenteeism and implement appropriate
- 3 strategies to improve student attendance.
- 4 3. The superintendent of public instruction shall report its findings and recommendations,
- 5 together with any legislation required to implement the recommendations, to the
- 6 legislative management on or before September 1, 2026.