

## MEMORANDUM

TO: Governor Abbott  
Legislative Budget Board

FROM: Texas Education Agency

DATE: January 6, 2017

RE: Rider 66: Truancy Data Report

The Texas Education Agency has collected truancy data from schools since the 2003-2004 school year due to a federal reporting requirement associated with the No Child Left Behind Act (NCLB). The data collected included truancy (failure to attend) due to the following reasons: (1) parent contributing to truancy, (2) student with at least three absences, (3) student with 10 absences, and (4) student failure to enroll. The 2015-2016 school year was the last year that the requirement was in effect as NCLB was rewritten and truancy data is no longer required for reporting purposes. TEA can only collect data that is statutorily required.

The Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA), which replaced NCLB, requires reporting on chronic absenteeism. Chronic absenteeism is defined as the unduplicated number of students absent 10% or more school days during the school year. In accordance with the Office for Civil Rights' guidance, a student is absent if he or she is not physically on school grounds and is not participating in instruction or instruction-related activities at an approved off-grounds location for the school day. Chronically absent students include students who are absent for any reason (e.g., illness, suspension, the need to care for a family member), regardless of whether absences are excused or unexcused. TEA is required to begin reporting chronic absenteeism rates for federal purposes with the 2016-17 data.