

1-1 By: Bettencourt S.B. No. 1630
 1-2 (In the Senate - Filed March 6, 2023; March 16, 2023, read
 1-3 first time and referred to Committee on Education; April 17, 2023,
 1-4 reported adversely, with favorable Committee Substitute by the
 1-5 following vote: Yeas 10, Nays 0; April 17, 2023, sent to printer.)

1-6 COMMITTEE VOTE

| | Yea | Nay | Absent | PNV |
|------|-----|-----|--------|-----|
| 1-7 | | | | |
| 1-8 | X | | | |
| 1-9 | X | | | |
| 1-10 | X | | | |
| 1-11 | | | X | |
| 1-12 | X | | | |
| 1-13 | | | X | |
| 1-14 | X | | | |
| 1-15 | X | | | |
| 1-16 | X | | | |
| 1-17 | X | | | |
| 1-18 | X | | | |
| 1-19 | | | X | |
| 1-20 | X | | | |

1-21 COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR S.B. No. 1630 By: Birdwell

1-22 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
 1-23 AN ACT

1-24 relating to an attendance policy adopted by public schools to
 1-25 prevent truancy.

1-26 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

1-27 SECTION 1. Subchapter C, Chapter 25, Education Code, is
 1-28 amended by adding Section 25.0916 to read as follows:

1-29 Sec. 25.0916. ATTENDANCE POLICY. (a) In this section,
 1-30 "parent" includes a person standing in parental relation.

1-31 (b) The board of trustees of each school district and the
 1-32 governing body of each open-enrollment charter school shall adopt
 1-33 and implement an attendance policy to:

1-34 (1) inform students and parents regarding the
 1-35 importance of regular attendance; and

1-36 (2) provide appropriate supports to students who fail
 1-37 to regularly attend school.

1-38 (c) An attendance policy adopted under this section must:

1-39 (1) describe the benefits of regular attendance;

1-40 (2) describe the consequences of failing to regularly
 1-41 attend school, including the negative effects on:

1-42 (A) a student's academic progress; and

1-43 (B) a student and the student's family as a
 1-44 result of referral to a truancy court for truant conduct under
 1-45 Section 65.003(a), Family Code;

1-46 (3) provide for a parent of a student enrolled in the
 1-47 district or school to elect to receive notifications of the
 1-48 student's absence from school for a day or part of a day, regardless
 1-49 of whether the student's absence is excused or unexcused, through:

1-50 (A) e-mail or text message, if the district or
 1-51 school has the capability to send notifications through those
 1-52 methods; or

1-53 (B) first class mail, if the district or school
 1-54 does not have the capability to send notifications as provided by
 1-55 Paragraph (A);

1-56 (4) provide for a meeting between a parent of a student
 1-57 enrolled in the district or school and a school counselor,
 1-58 principal, or appropriate administrator when the student becomes at
 1-59 risk for engaging in truant conduct under Section 65.003, Family
 1-60 Code, as provided by the policy, to discuss the student's behavior

2-1 and any conditions at the student's home that may be contributing to
2-2 the student's failure to attend school;

2-3 (5) if a parent of a student enrolled in the district
2-4 or school fails to attend a meeting described by Subdivision (4),
2-5 authorize the school attendance officer to make a home visit or
2-6 otherwise contact the parent in the manner described by Section
2-7 25.091 to investigate the student's behavior and living conditions
2-8 and report the attendance officer's findings to the district or
2-9 school; and

2-10 (6) establish guidelines to identify a student in need
2-11 of additional support and to refer the student to in-school or
2-12 out-of-school services aimed at addressing the student's failure to
2-13 regularly attend school.

2-14 (d) At the beginning of each school year, each school
2-15 district or open-enrollment charter school shall provide a copy of
2-16 the attendance policy adopted under this section to the parent of
2-17 each student enrolled in the district or school.

2-18 SECTION 2. This Act applies beginning with the 2023-2024
2-19 school year.

2-20 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
2-21 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
2-22 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
2-23 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
2-24 Act takes effect September 1, 2023.

2-25 * * * * *