

Truancy Reduction Supports

Statutory and/or Budget Language

\$1,399,000 of the general fund—state appropriation for fiscal year 2024 and \$1,399,000 of the general fund—state appropriation for fiscal year 2025 are provided solely for school districts to support youth who are truant under chapter 28A.225 RCW or at risk of becoming truant, and for costs associated with filing or serving petitions under RCW 28A.225.030.

Purpose

This proviso is intended to support school districts to employ strategies and build systems to prevent and reduce absences, including truancy (unexcused absences) and chronic absence (excused and unexcused absences). This can include staffing to set up district systems (like school attendance teams or running Community Engagement Boards); it can also mean supports provided by OSPI and Educational Service Districts that are in direct support of school districts to achieve that goal.

Description of Services Provided

OSPI retains a portion of these funds to cover administrative costs and to support OSPI staffing that provide the following state-wide supports directly related to the purpose of this proviso:

- Develop guidance
 - Example: develop Community Engagement Board and Truancy process implementation guidance and resources
- Provide professional development
 - Example: Withdrawing Students Webinar and the Truancy
- Provide technical assistance to all schools and districts on addressing truancy and absences through phone calls, emails and regular office hours

The remainder of this funding is distributed to school districts via formula.

Criteria for Receiving Services and/or Grants

The funding methodology was based on the average of the two school years prior to 2019–20, namely 2017–18 and 2018–19. If a school district did not file any truancy petitions, they did not receive any funding. For the 2023–24 school year, the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI) maintained similar allocations as the previous school year (2022–23), after OSPI administrative costs were subtracted. This approach maintains funding stability for districts that have already used these funds for truancy related staffing and support.

More details can be found in this communication to school districts in [Bulletin 038-24](#).



Beneficiaries in the 2023-24 School Year

Number of School Districts	152
Number of Schools	N/A
Number of Students	N/A
Number of Educators	N/A
Other	N/A

Are Federal or Other Funds Contingent on State Funding?

No

State Funding History

Fiscal Year	Amount Funded	Actual Expenditures
2024	\$1,399,000	\$1,399,000
2023	\$1,399,000	\$1,399,000
2022	\$1,399,000	\$1,399,000

Number of Beneficiaries Per Fiscal Year (e.g. School Districts, Schools, Students, Educators, Other)

Fiscal Year	Number of Beneficiaries
2024	153
2023	152
2022	152

Programmatic Changes Since Inception (If Any)

This funding prior to 2021, had been passed through to OSPI from the Administrative Office of the Courts, then to school districts. At that time, district allocations were based on a pro-rated amount per petition filed, with the sole purpose of reimbursing districts for their administrative time in filing petitions.

Truancy petition filings were greatly impacted over the 2019-20 and 2020-21 school years due to COVID-19. First, in 2019–20 with school facility closures and then again in 2020–21, with the OSPI emergency rule (Chapter 392-401A WAC). This emergency rule greatly reduced the number of truancy petitions that were filed that year. The Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI) with the Administrative Office of the Courts, adjusted the funding distribution for 2020-21 to ensure that districts, charter schools, and tribal compact schools receive comparable funding to previous years. 2021-22 was the first year that OSPI received this funding directly.

During the 2021 legislative session, the Legislature expanded the scope of this funding from solely reimbursing school districts for the costs of filing truancy petitions. School districts may now use the funds to support youth that are at risk of becoming truant or youth that are truant. This change will necessitate a different methodology of distributing funding to school districts. In the 2024-25 school year, the funding will not be based solely on the number of petitions filed. However, for the 2023–24 school year, OSPI maintained similar allocations as the previous school year (2022–23).

Program Evaluation or Evaluation of Major Findings

The majority of districts have reported to OSPI that this funding supports staffing capacity to directly work with youth that are at-risk of becoming truant or are truant.

Major Challenges Faced by the Program

The amount of funds is not sufficient to have significant impact when distributed in such small amounts across the state. The development of a new methodology must entail a decision regarding increasing grant amounts which would reduce the number of districts supported or continue to fund FTE piecemeal across the state.

Future Opportunities

Funding distribution should also consider more effective use of the funds, such as increasing capacity at the regional level (e.g. in educational service districts) to provide training and coaching supports directly to schools to improve their tier 1 systems on attendance, in order to reduce the overall number of students who need intervention through the truancy process.

Other Relevant Information

OSPI provides a library of resources to address attendance and truancy on the [Attendance webpages](#) and through the [Attendance Newsletter](#). The allocation amounts for each school district can be found in the [2023-24 Truancy Reimbursement](#).

Schools/Districts Receiving Assistance

[Click here to see a list of all OSPI grant recipients in the 2024 Fiscal Year.](#)

Program Contact Information

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