

New report card indicator unveiled

Under Ohio's Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) plan, absenteeism rates will become a graded component of school performance as measured by state report cards.

To meet the new indicator, 86.4 percent of students must not be chronically absent, with the target increasing by about one percent each year until 2025, at which time schools will be expected to show chronic truancy rates of no more than five percent.

According to the Ohio Department of Education, 70 percent of schools would have met the indicator if the new requirement had been in place this year.

Intervention efforts should reduce chronic absenteeism and improve school performance over time.

The State Board of Education's Accountability and Continuous Improvement Committee will likely vote on a formal resolution detailing the new indicator in April, with a vote by the full board expected in May.

