



**ASSEMBLY STANDING COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION
ASSEMBLY STANDING COMMITTEE ON CHILDREN AND FAMILIES**

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

SUBJECT: Chronic Absenteeism and Low Attendance in K-12 Education

PURPOSE: To examine the root causes of chronic absenteeism and low attendance in primary and secondary schools in New York State and explore solutions to help increase attendance rates.

Thursday, January 22, 2026
10:00 AM

Roosevelt Hearing Room C, Legislative Office Building
Albany, NY 12248

ORAL TESTIMONY WILL BE BY INVITATION ONLY

In recent years, particularly since the COVID-19 pandemic, student attendance rates at primary and secondary schools in New York State have been alarmingly low. According to a 2024 report from the Office of the New York State Comptroller, more than one-third of K-12 students statewide were chronically absent in the 2022-23 academic year, meaning they missed at least 10% of school days. The report also demonstrated that the most severe rates for chronic absenteeism were in high-need districts and urban areas. Additional studies have shown that chronic absenteeism is closely tied to family stability and child well-being, as persistent absences can be driven by factors such as housing instability, child welfare involvement, and limited access to supportive services.

Despite efforts by New York State to combat this problem, including launching statewide public awareness campaigns and refining chronic absenteeism calculations to improve accuracy, attendance rates have remained low and have not yet returned to pre-pandemic levels. For these reasons, the Assembly Standing Committees on Education and Children and Families seek to examine the root causes of chronic absenteeism and low attendance in primary and secondary schools statewide, including a holistic assessment of both home- and school-based factors. The Committees seek feedback from stakeholders and experts on both longstanding and recent trends associated with chronic absenteeism, as well as efforts to bolster attendance in schools.

Persons invited to present pertinent testimony to the Committee at the above hearing should complete and return the enclosed reply form as soon as possible. It is important that the reply form be fully completed and returned so that persons may be notified in the event of emergency postponement or cancellation.

Oral testimony will be limited to five (5) minutes' duration. In preparing the order of witnesses, the Committee will attempt to accommodate individual requests to speak at particular times in view of special circumstances. These requests should be made on the attached reply form or communicated to Committee staff as early as possible.

Ten copies of any prepared testimony should be submitted at the hearing registration desk. The Committee would appreciate advance receipt of prepared statements.

Attendees and participants at any legislative public hearing should be aware that these proceedings are video recorded. Their likenesses may be included in any video coverage shown on television or the internet.

In order to further publicize these hearings, please inform interested parties and organizations of the Committee's interest in hearing testimony from all sources.

In order to meet the needs of those who may have a disability, the Assembly, in accordance with its policy of non-discrimination on the basis of disability, as well as the 1990 Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), has made its facilities and services available to all individuals with disabilities. For individuals with disabilities, accommodations will be provided, upon reasonable request, to afford such individuals access and admission to Assembly facilities and activities.

Honorable Michael R. Benedetto
Member of Assembly
Chair
Committee on Education

Honorable Andrew D. Hevesi
Member of Assembly
Chair
Committee on Children and Families

PUBLIC HEARING REPLY FORM

Persons invited to present testimony at the public hearing on Chronic Absenteeism and Low Attendance in K-12 Education are requested to complete this reply form as soon as possible and mail, email or fax it to:

Benjamin Levin
Analyst
Assembly Committee on Education
Room 513 – Capitol
Albany, New York 12248
Email: levinb@nyassembly.gov
Phone: (518) 455-4881
Fax: (518) 455-7250

☐ I plan to attend the following public hearing on Chronic Absenteeism and Low Attendance in K-12 Education to be conducted by the Assembly Committee on Education and the Assembly Committee on Children and Families on January 22, 2026.

☐ I have been invited to make a public statement at the hearing. My statement will be limited to five minutes, and I will answer any questions which may arise. I will provide 10 copies of my prepared statement.

☐ I will address my remarks to the following subjects:

☐ I do not plan to attend the above hearing.

☐ I would like to be added to the Committee mailing list for notices and reports.

☐ I would like to be removed from the Committee mailing list.

☐ I will require assistance and/or handicapped accessibility information. **Please specify the type of assistance required:** _____

NAME: _____

TITLE: _____

ORGANIZATION: _____

ADDRESS: _____

E-MAIL: _____

TELEPHONE: _____

FAX TELEPHONE: _____