



Board of Trustees Agenda Item

Date	October 21, 2024
Agenda Item	Strategic Plan Goal 3: Fiscal Responsibility - Attendance
Policy Reference	FEA(LLEGAL) / FEA(LOCAL), FEB(LLEGAL)/FEB(LOCAL)
Strategic Goal	Student Success, Fiscal Responsibility
Department	Administrative Services

Recommendation: Information only – A report on the district’s efforts to improve student average daily attendance.

Summary: The BISD Strategic Plan for Fiscal Responsibility includes a goal to meet or exceed the Average Daily Attendance (ADA) used to set the budget for the fiscal year. Improving student average daily attendance (ADA) is crucial for both student learning and school funding. ADA is directly linked to academic success because regular attendance ensures that students are present to engage in learning activities, receive instruction, and access necessary resources for academic growth. Frequent absenteeism often leads to gaps in learning, lower academic performance, and increased dropout rates. By improving attendance, schools can foster a more consistent learning environment that enhances student achievement and long-term educational outcomes.

From a financial perspective, ADA is the primary factor used to calculate the amount of state funding a school district receives under the Texas school finance system. Schools with higher ADA rates receive more funding, allowing them to improve educational programs, hire quality staff, and maintain adequate resources. A drop in attendance can result in reduced funding, which can negatively impact school operations and the ability to provide essential services to students.

Boerne ISD campuses have engaged in plans to improve average daily attendance by leveraging attendance incentive programs, communication systems, and systems for supporting persistently absent students.

Rationale: Improving ADA in Texas public schools is not only essential for student success but also a key determinant in securing adequate financial resources, both of which are vital for creating a high-quality educational environment. Several Texas laws and policies underscore the importance of improving student attendance:

- Texas Education Code (TEC) §25.092 outlines the "90% Rule," which mandates that students must attend at least 90% of the days a class is offered to receive credit or a final grade. This rule emphasizes the link between attendance and academic progress
- TEC §42.005 explains the role of ADA in determining state funding for public schools. ADA calculations affect the amount of funding that school districts receive from the state, making attendance crucial for financial stability.
- Texas Administrative Code (TAC) Title 19, Part 2, Chapter 129 addresses student attendance accounting and the procedures for reporting attendance for funding purposes. Accurate tracking of attendance ensures that districts receive appropriate funding based on student presence.

Recommended by: Dr. Kristin Craft, Superintendent

Submitted by: Dr. John O’Hare, Chief Administrative Officer

Suggested Motion: Information Only