



Truancy Reduction Supports

1. **Purpose:**

This proviso is intended to support youth who meet the criteria for truancy outlined in Chapter 28A.225 – [Compulsory School Attendance](#), or at risk of being truant, and for costs incurred by the school district in the processing of truancy petitions.

2. **Description of services provided:**

This funding is pass through directly to school districts.

3. **Criteria for receiving services and/or grants:**

The funding methodology was based on the average of the two school years prior to 2020–21 and 2019–20, including 2017–18 and 2018–19. If a school district did not file any truancy petitions, they did not receive any funding.

Truancy petition filings were greatly impacted over the last two 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 this year. The Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI) with the Administrative Office of the Courts, adjusted the funding distribution to ensure that districts, charter schools, and tribal compact schools receive comparable funding to previous years. Each reimbursement is based on the average of the two school years prior to 2020–21 and 2019–20, including 2017–18 and 2018–19.

More details can be found in this communication to school districts in [OSPI Bulletin 024-22](#).

Beneficiaries in 2021-22 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

Number of OSPI staff associated with this funding (FTEs): 0

Number of contractors/other staff associated with this funding: 0

FY22 Funding: **State Appropriation:** \$1,399,000
 Federal Appropriation: \$0
 Other Fund Sources: \$0
 TOTAL (FY22) \$1,399,000

4. Are federal or other funds contingent on state funding?

No

5. State funding history:

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

6. Number of beneficiaries (e.g., school districts, schools, students, educators, other) history:

Fiscal Year	Number of Districts
2022	152

7. Programmatic changes since inception (if any):

This funding has historically been a pass through from Administrative Office of the Courts. For the 2020-21 school year, truancy petition filings were greatly impacted over the last two 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. Moving forward, the funding will no longer be based solely on the number of petitions filed. However, for the 2021–22 school year, OSPI maintained the same allocations as the previous school year (2020–21), while collecting data from school districts on how they have

historically deployed this funding. This data will inform how funding will be allocated in 2022–23.

8. Evaluations of program/major findings:

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

9. 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.

10. Future opportunities:

11. Statutory and/or budget language:

ESSB 5693, Sec. 522(21) - \$1,399,000 of the general fund—state appropriation for fiscal year 2022 and \$1,399,000 of the general fund—state appropriation for fiscal year 2023 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.

12. Other relevant information:

The districts that received this funding and their allocations can be found here: [2020-21 Truancy Payments](#).

13. Schools/districts receiving assistance:

See [OSPI's grantee list](#).

14. Program Contact Information:

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