

In **April, 2014**, the Nebraska Legislature amended **Section 79-209** regarding the duties of school officials with respect to school attendance. These changes took effect with the 2014-2015 school year.

In addition, the Legislature also revised **Section 79-527.01** to create the **Council on Student Attendance** with the following duties:

- (a.) Study and evaluate the data contained in the reports required by subsection (2) of Section 79-527;
- (b.) Develop recommendations to reduce incidents of absenteeism;
- (c.) Consider whether school district policies and practices for addressing absenteeism are operational and effectively working to address absenteeism and make recommendations for improvement where necessary; and
- (d.) Review all school district policies developed under subsection (2) of Section 79-209 and make specific recommendations for school district policy improvement.

The Council on Student Attendance membership includes representation from various stakeholders:

Name:	Role:
Matt Blomstedt	Commissioner of Education
Jeanne Brandner	Deputy Administrator Administrative Office of Probation
Tim DeWaard	Superintendent, Centennial Public School
Sarah Graham	Douglas County Attorney
Treva Haugaard	Executive Director, GOALS Center
Courtney Phillips	Chief Executive Officer, Department of Health and Human Services
Heidi Schutz	School Board Member, Grand Island Public Schools
Robert Stark	Parent
Brenda Vosik	Parent
Megan Miller	Student

For more information go to:

<http://www.education.ne.gov/APAC/StudentAttendance.html>

