

Testimony Guide

- Learn about the bill before preparing your testimony (read the original text of the bill) to understand its intent and impact.
- Read the bill as written (underscored text is new language, strikeouts are deletions).

b. The board of directors of a public school district or the governing body of an accredited nonpublic school may, by resolution, require attendance for the entire time when the schools are in session in any school year ~~and.~~

3. ~~The board of directors of a public school district shall adopt a policy or rules relating to the reasons considered to be valid or acceptable excuses for absence from school~~ related to absenteeism and truancy. The policy may contain attendance requirements that are more stringent than the attendance requirements established under this chapter.

4. a. The board of directors of a public school district shall adopt a policy or rules relating to children who are chronically absent. The policy or rules must contain provisions that clearly explain all of the following:

- Watch the sponsor hearing and read the sponsor statement for the bill.
- Research the information from trusted experts, professionals, and organizations.
- Prepare your testimony early so it's ready to submit when the hearing is announced. (Some committees only provide 1-2 days advance notice of a hearing.)
- Use a testimony template.
- Do not submit your testimony until the appropriate hearing is formally announced. (Many committees will reject testimony if submitted too early.)
- Testimony is usually due at least 24 hours ahead of the scheduled committee hearing, but please check your local guidance.
- In your email, indicate the bill number and type of testimony you are submitting (proponent/opponent and in-person/written), and ask for a confirmation of receipt.

Tips for Providing In-Person Testimony

- Write your testimony beforehand, or use one of the sample testimony templates shared above.
- Remain in the time constraints you are given. The sample testimony without your story takes about 3 minutes to read; practice reciting it to make sure it meets time requirements from the committee.
- Review background information, including members who will be present on the committee, in advance for context.
- Use your story! Personal narratives are influential, so be clear about how it impacts you and others. Be direct with your call to action, too.
- Be prepared to answer committee questions. (It is OK to respond, "I do not have that information, but I'm happy to forward those answers in the coming days.").
- Arrive at least 30-60 minutes early for parking and seating.

