Proposed legislation in Sacramento would mandate successful reform efforts statewide.

By Aja Brown

To improve California’s education system is a challenge that has left divided caucuses, controversial teachers, and passionate educators and advocates. Some blame the state’s high school graduation rate, others look to overcrowded classrooms, and still others tout the city’s low graduation rates. However, no solution to our school problems will make as much difference as our students, 12 years or at home when they should be in school. In an attempt to turn around our educational system, lawmakers have introduced several pieces of legislation to address the truancy problem.

The data show that 77% of California’s prison inmates are high school dropouts or have left school before earning a diploma. In addition, truancy has tremendous economic ramifications. According to the Compton Unified School District, the cost of truancy is just over $607 million, and that cost becomes even greater when you account for the indirect costs to our communities. The price tag of truancy is estimated at $46 billion annually.

Another bill, AB 2141, would require school districts on the state level to work with school officials determine what services and support they offer to students who are struggling to keep up with their schoolwork. The Compton Unified School District introduced a new truancy referral program that reviews “truancy referrals” that review attendance and build early warning systems to identify and assist at-risk children. And as a statewide effort, the district’s new attendance and truancy referral program is tracking attendance through the use of a reporting center.

Finally, AB 2141 would require each county to create a school attendance improvement plan. The Compton Unified School District has already taken this step, using a new truancy referral program to identify and assist at-risk children. The plan works to build early warning systems to identify and assist at-risk children. The plan also includes a comprehensive approach to monitoring truancy, making it easier to identify students who are struggling and who need extra support. The new truancy referral program is tracking attendance through the use of a reporting center.

Follow Compton's lead on truancy

Lauren F. Taylor is a constitutional law attorney at UC Berkeley School of Law. She was born in the right to an education.

OIL AND GAS

is a dangerous mix

By Jayni Foley Hein

The state is projected to receive up to 28 million barrels of oil by rail by 2017, compared with about 1 million in 2012. The oil will be volatile crude from the Bakken formation in North Dakota and Canada. According to the California Natural Resources

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Statement of the environment, suicide and more. The Compton Unified School District achieved a 1.47% truancy rate in 2013.

The California Senate this week passed a bill, AB 2141, that would authorize districts to create truancy referral programs. The bill would allow school districts to develop and implement programs that include tracking attendance and build early warning systems to identify and assist at-risk children. And as a statewide effort, the district’s new attendance and truancy referral program is tracking attendance through the use of a reporting center.

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