

Sidney Kullman

New Mexico Girls State

Title of Bill: School Attendance Act Section I. Body:

Many students drop out of High School because of their attendance. They have unexcused absences by ditching class, skipping school, or staying home because school is not for them. The issue for many drop outs is because the parents are not informed about them being unexcused. Many students are not graduating and not getting their Diploma of Excellence. Putting this bill into effect will result in higher graduation rates and will fix the attendance policy in the State.

Section II. Definitions:

New Mexico Diploma of Excellence- Students pass required core classes with minimum amount of credits and meet the cut score for high school graduation assessment on the Standardized Based Assessment (SBA).

Pre-Arranged Absence- If a student knows they will be absent for more than three days, they should obtain a Pre-Arranged Absence Form from the Attendance Secretary prior to the absence.

Section III. Penalty:

The School Attendance Act will adopt:

1. An automated call will be attempted to contact parents of all students who are marked absent any period during the day.
2. There will be 5 Stages for any student who repetitively has more than one unexcused absence.

Stage One- Four days of unexcused absences: Student is assigned lunch detention and a letter will be sent to the parent/guardian of the student indicating the number of absences and documenting each occurrence.

Stage Two- Eight days of unexcused absences: Student is assigned after school detention and a meeting will be held with parent/guardian, student, and administrator. An attendance contract will be written and signed by all parties involved.

Sidney Kullman