

Truancy: Keeping Your Students In School



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Truancy and the Law

- Average of 8 days missed during the school year (both excused and unexcused absences)
- Truancy results in legal and social consequences for child, parent and our community
- Criminal, emotional, educational and financial problems for our entire society



Truancy Defined

- Truancy is ANY unexcused absence from school
- Habitual Truancy
 - 5 or more consecutive absences
 - 7 or more absences in a month
 - 12 or more absences in a year
- Chronic Truancy
 - 7 or more consecutive absences
 - 10 or more absences in a month
 - 15 or more absences in a year



Truancy Intervention Program

- 4 Components:
 - 2 unexcused absences = Warning Letter
 - 5 unexcused absences = Truancy Intervention Meeting
 - ½ hour meeting with administrator and court rep that explains Warren County truancy process
 - 7 unexcused absences = Unofficial Hearing
 - 7+ unexcused absences = Official Hearing

Truancy and Crime

- Truancy is a stepping stone to criminal and delinquent activity
 - 50-60% drops in petty crimes reported
 - 67% more likely to test positive for drug usage
 - Lead into gang membership



Truancy and Education



- Truancy leads to a reduced earning capacity
 - A BA/BS is becoming the minimum level of education needed to secure employment
 - While truant students may graduate HS, few enter college and fewer graduate with a degree

Truancy and Social Costs

- **Schools:** hundreds of thousands of dollars in lost Federal and State funds
- **Business:** waste time and money training uneducated workers
- **Taxpayers:** citizens are forced to pay higher taxes to
 - cover higher law enforcement costs
 - support higher welfare costs

What You Can Do: School Environment

- Make students feel welcome – say hello to students in halls and make it a point to learn names
- Make sure students feel safe and respected while at school
- Be wary of open lunches and breaks



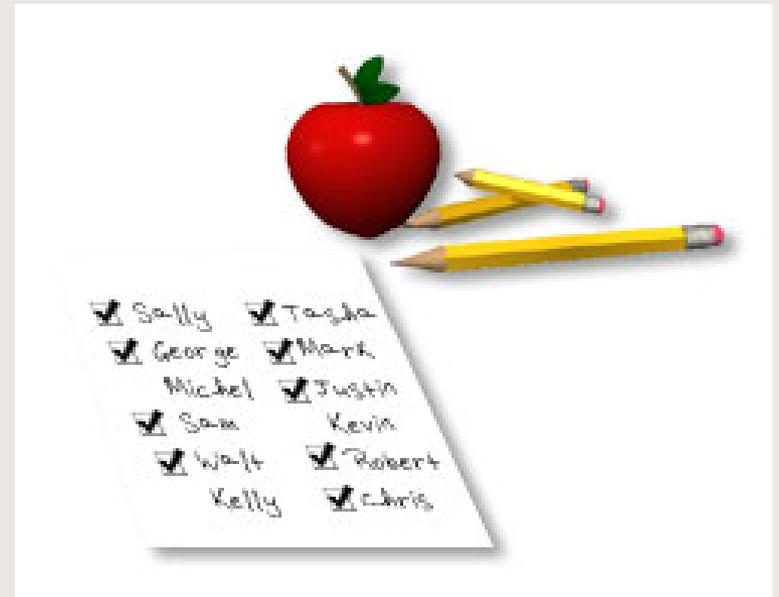
What You Can Do: Feedback



- Highlight students' success, no matter how small a feat
 - Awards, letters, etc.
- When students are absent, talk with them about why
 - Indicate awareness
- Recognize not only perfect, but good attendance
 - Reward classes, individuals and schools

What You Can Do: Stand Firm

- Set clear guidelines on attendance policy
- Adhere strictly to guidelines set
- A late excuse is a bad excuse



What You Can Do: Reach Out

- When students are absent, talk to parents
- Partner with local businesses
- Build relationships with local law enforcement
- Encourage teacher involvement



The Prosecutor's Office



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- Victim-Witness Advocates are available
- We can help make contacts and referrals to law enforcement agencies
- Additional resources are available on our website:
www.co.warren.oh.us/Prosecutor/