

Resources for Truancy Reduction in Schools

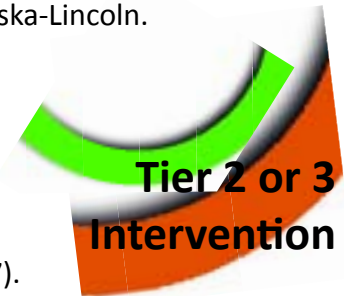
Tiers 2 & 3

Resource Brief, March, 2013.

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This document contains materials are intended as resources for the *Strategy Brief on Truancy Reduction* and are intended for schools focusing on reduction of truancy.

Parts of this list have been adapted from Walker, K. (March 112, 2007). Research Brief: Attendance and Truancy Programs, Washington, DC: The Education Partnership. That report is available at: <http://files.eric.ed.gov/fulltext/ED538205.pdf>. However, The Education Partnership has now closed its doors and its website no longer is open.



Materials and Resources

• California Department of Education

This website gives the definition of a truant under California law and then explains the procedures and consequences that both students and parents can receive for truancy. This is one example of how a state is implementing a truancy reduction program. This program includes interventions, penalties and consequences to the student, as well as punitive and non-punitive consequences to the parents. <http://www.cde.ca.gov/ls/ai/cw/attendstrategy.asp>

• **National Center for Education Statistics** This website contains all kinds of educational statistics. These include truancy rates, attendance rates and dropout rates. <http://nces.ed.gov/>

• National Center for School Engagement (NCSE)

This website contains information about TRAIN, which stands for: Truancy Reduction Application Interface Web-based data System. This system is used to track data and help schools make informed decisions about how to address their truancy issues. Also, there is a truancy program registry which contains information on programs that are being used all over the country. This is a searchable registry that can list programs by state, grade level, program type and/or evidence of effectiveness of program. There are several programs listed for Nebraska. For example, PAL® Peer Assistance & Leadership is a program that has been implemented in several states and in 2011, it was included in the National Registry of Evidence-based Programs and Practices. This website also offers training programs, book reviews and resources including how to evaluate your truancy reduction program. <http://www.schoolengagement.org/>

-The home page for NCSE provides information on research and publications to promote "attendance, attachment and achievement." <http://www.schoolengagement.org/index.cfm/Truancy%20Program%20Registry>

-This NCSE page has active links to research on attendance and truanancies. <http://www.schoolengagement.org/index.cfm/Research%20Publications>

- **National Dropout Prevention Center (NDPC)**

The website has journals, a newsletter, resources, conferences, radio webcasts, webinars and effective practices for preventing students from dropping out of school. There is also a link to a series of briefs on school climate to assist in preventing school dropout. There are also model programs, a resource library, and there are major research reports as well. <http://www.dropoutprevention.org>.

- **10 things a school can do to improve attendance.** This piece briefly cites specific ideas for improving attendance in schools. <http://www.schoolengagement.org/TruancyPreventionRegistry/Admin/Resources/Resources/6.pdf>

- **Attendance violations: School's and law enforcement's responsibilities.** Interventions and enforcement strategies that encourage school attendance are outlined in this article. <http://www.iatdp.org/Articles/Journal%20Article%20Attendance%20Violations.htm>. <http://www.education-partnerships.org/>

- **Attendance Works**

The authors of this website advocate for better policy and practice around school attendance. Tracking and monitoring chronic absences for individual students from kindergarten through high school is needed so that early interventions and partnerships with families and communities can be used to intervene and target students' needs. This website contains a variety of materials including handouts, videos, webinars, strategies to improve attendance and other materials which promote attendance. <http://www.attendanceworks.org/>

- **Best practices in developing truancy reduction programs**

A one page list that briefly describes ideas for reducing truancy in schools. <http://www.schoolengagement.org/TruancyPreventionRegistry/Admin/Resources/Resources/8.pdf>

- **Blueprints for violence prevention programs that reduce truancy and/or improve school attendance**

Descriptions of school-based, community-based, and school-community based attendance and truancy programs are provided in this extensive document. <http://www.schoolengagement.org/TruancyPreventionRegistry/Admin/Resources/Resources/115.pdf>

- **Board initiates program to help cut dropout rate**

A brief description of a program to deal with students when they begin to show signs of potential attendance problems is given in this article. <http://www.iatdp.org/Articles/Mary%20Anne%20DO%20Article%2011-13-03.htm>

- **How to evaluate your truancy reduction program**

Different strategies on ways in which to establish and utilize data on school truancy provided are provided in this piece. <http://www.schoolengagement.org/TruancyPreventionRegistry/Admin/Resources/Resources/68.pdf>

- **International Association for truancy and dropout prevention**

This is the home site with live links to conference information and appropriate articles. <http://www.iatdp.org/>

- **Joint efforts to improve school attendance**

This brief article describes ideas for the legal system and community to work with the schools to help improve attendance. <http://www.schoolengagement.org/TruancyPreventionRegistry/Admin/Resources/Resources/13.pdf>

- **On the truancy front line**

A description of the pupil personnel workers program and how they work to get students who are truant back in school is given in this article. http://www.iatdp.org/Articles/Truancy_Balt_Sun.html

- **Sample policy and administrative regulation California**

This piece provides the policy regarding school attendance in California. <http://www.cde.ca.gov/ls/ai/sb/samplepolicy.asp>

- **School attendance demonstration project**

An evaluation of a program to motivate public assistance teens to attend and complete school in an urban school district. This is an abstract on an article about a study done with students who were considered to be “at risk.” <http://rsw.sagepub.com/cgi/content/abstract/12/2/222>

- **School attendance improvement handbook, California Dept. of Education**

This is the 2000 handbook from CA that provides guidance regarding attendance in the state. <http://www.cde.ca.gov/ls/ai/cw/documents/schoolattendance.pdf>

- **School attendance tracking: Challenges and effective practices**

A list of suggestions that could assist in more accurately tracking attendance rates is provided. <http://www.schoolengagement.org/TruancyPreventionRegistry/Admin/Resources/Resources/55.pdf>

- **States pull out stops to curb truancy**

This article describes numerous efforts of many states to improve school attendance through the implementation of different programs. <http://www.stateline.org/live/details/story?contentId=175857>

- **Strategies to help solve our school dropout problem**

15 strategies to assist in helping curb student dropouts are briefly described in this article. <http://www.iatdp.org/Articles/Journal%20Article%20Dropout%20Prevention.htm>

- **Statistics from Florida**

Statistics from 2004-2005 on the impact of attendance and students being able to maintain their driving privileges are provided in this section of the Florida code. <http://www.fldoe.org/faq/default.asp?Dept=107&ID=511#Q511>

- **Student truancy**

A summary of the characteristics of student truancy is provided in this piece. <http://www.kidsource.com/education/student.truancy.html>

- **Student truancy**

Although this article is dated 1999, it provides numerous suggestions for dealing with issues of truancy. <https://scholarsbank.uoregon.edu/xmlui/bitstream/handle/1794/3348/digest125.pdf?sequence=1>

- **Truancy in Hawaii and beyond**

Five key elements and recommendations to combat truancy are described in this article. <http://www.hawaii.edu/truancy/bestpractices.htm>

- **Truancy Programs**

This is a registry of programs that is searchable by several different criteria so schools can find truancy reduction programs that are being used in their area and find different types of programs. <http://www.schoolengagement.org/truancypreventionregistry/index.cfm?fuseaction=programlist>

- **Youth out of school: Linking absence to delinquency**

This exhaustive report from Colorado describes many issues dealing with the causes of delinquency and provides suggestions for combating them. <http://www.schoolengagement.org/TruancypreventionRegistry/Admin/Resources/Resources/YouthOutOfSchoolLinkingAbsencetoDelinquency.pdf>

- **Youth who drop out**

Reasons why students drop out of school along with active links to many sites on this topic are provided in this article. <http://www.focusas.com/Dropouts.html>



Reports or Documents

Maxyck, D. (2013, December). Beneath the surface: Addressing health-related chronic absenteeism. Principal Leadership.

This article discusses ways that school teams can address health related chronic absenteeism, and particularly how school nurses and school social workers can influence positive results with these students.

McKinney, S. (2012, December 12). Truancy: A Research Brief. New York: Status Offense Reform Center, Vera Institute of Justice. Downloaded from: http://www.statusoffensereform.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/12/Truancy_Final2.pdf

This is a brief report about the research on truancy.

Munoz, M. A. (2001). Whatever it takes: The impact of a truancy program on attendance. (Research Report No. 143). Retrieved from the Educational Resources Information Center.

This is a study in an elementary school about the implementation of a truancy court diversion project that did improve the attendance of the students studied. The program is judicially driven and uses both school and home-based activities including parenting classes, behavior contracts, Saturday school, tutoring, drug screening, psychological assessments, referrals to programs and services that the families need, anger management, violence-abatement classes and programs on domestic violence and substance abuse to help students and their families to improve attendance rates.

(no author, n.d.). **Suggested Guidelines: Truancy Prevention and Intervention. Retrieved on October 31, 2011 from http://www.mpaaa.org/Conference/S10/S5B_Truancy_Gdlines_S10.pdf**

This document is an example of a policy and specific guidelines and rules for a school district to follow in notification of parents, when and if referral to a truancy officer is needed and when the case will go into the court system.

Salsich, A. & Trone, J. (2013, December). Right response to truancy, running away, and other status offenses. New York: The Vera Institute of Justice's Status Offense Reform Center a member of the Models for Change Resource Center Partnership. <http://www.vera.org/pubs/status-offense-responses-white-paper-courts-communities>

This document discusses the need to provide more effective responses to truancy and other status offenses, rather than the traditional approach of employing the juvenile justice system and the courts. It provides a list of community-based system features which can be effective in intervening on these issues.



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Note: This document is a supplement to the *Strategy Brief on Truancy Reduction* available from the Student Engagement Project, University of Nebraska.