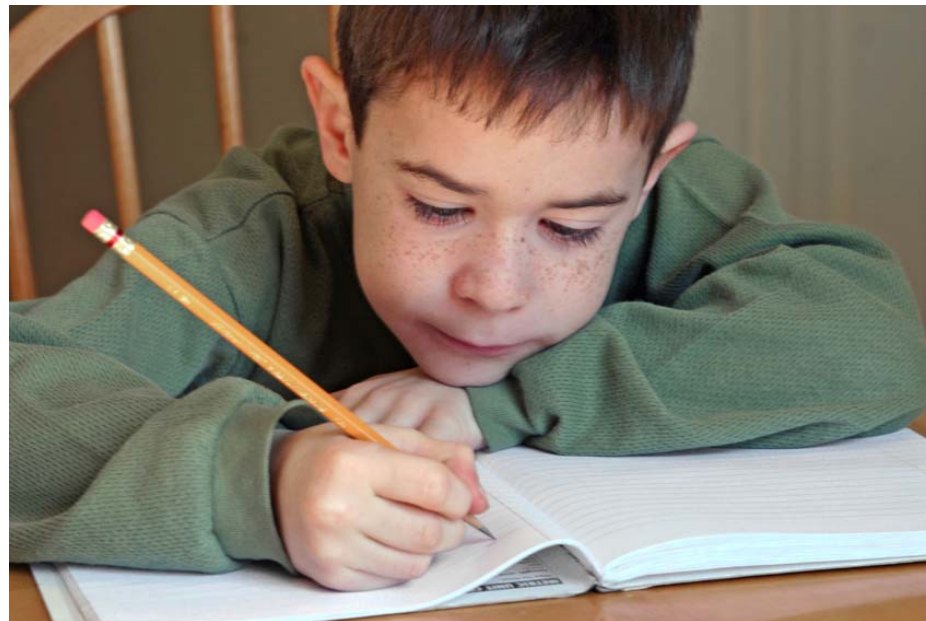


: Building a Coordinated Approach to Prevent and Reduce Truancy



Goals for Presentation

- Who is in audience?
- What information do you hope to gain from presentation?

Attendance Intervention Specialist Position:

Position Goals

- The goals of this position are to promote daily school attendance by:
- To identify students exhibiting early signs of truant behavior and apply appropriate interventions.
- To collaborate with staff, students, families and the community to promote regular attendance.
- To foster positive relationships, and to remove barriers to learning for the emerging truant student.

Evolution of Attendance Specialists in Green Bay....

- Started with only 2 full-time positions at East and Preble High Schools in 2006.
- In January 2009 Green Bay received a grant to fund an additional position at West High School.
- In May 2009 the school board approved the addition of a .4 position at Southwest High School.
- There is now an AIS at each of the four high schools in Green Bay.

PREBLE HIGH SCHOOL DEMOGRAPHICS:

- 2,100 students- Largest high school in Green Bay.
- 32% of students are eligible for free lunch.
- Demographic breakout:
 - *1.5% American Indian
 - *6.7% Asian
 - *2.7% Black
 - *15% Hispanic
 - *74.1% White

West High School Demographics:

- 1055 students enrolled, declining for last 10 years
- Free and reduced lunch is at 55.4 %
- All feeder elementary schools are Title 1 except for one
- Demographic breakout:
 - *57% Caucasian
 - *7.8% African-American
 - *20.6% SE Asian
 - *5.8% Hispanic
 - *8.4% Native American

Common Barriers to Attendance...

- No alarm clock
- Homelessness
- No transportation to school
- No school supplies (graphing calculator, translation dictionary, field trip money and class fees, appropriate gym clothes, school bag, jump drive, goggles)
- Not filing free/reduced lunch paperwork
- Unable to access medical care

Examples of Individual Interventions:

- Individual counseling on an intensive basis (AODA, crisis, family issues, homelessness, daily check-ins)
- Group Facilitation
- Schedule changes
- Consistent collaboration with teachers
- Providing incentives
- Referral to community resources
- Collaboration with parents/guardians

Broad Interventions

- Conference attendance project
- Future Wildcats (West)
- Link Crew/Freshman Transition Program
- Closed lunch hour for freshmen (East and West)
- Freshman Study Halls (Preble)
- Speaking in all freshmen health classrooms (Preble)
- Adaptation Plans

Community Resources

- Options Treatment Program
- Transitional Living Program
- Boys and Girls Club Employment Program
- Good Samaritan
- Runaway Project
- AA Groups
- What are yours?

Community-based Interventions

- Attendance Task Force through GB Chamber of Commerce.
- United Way Summit.
- Truancy court in the four high schools.
- Options Program
- The Salvation Army Alternative to Suspension program

Case Examples

- Samantha
- Isa
- Savannah
- Brandon
- Terry
- Lindsey

Frustrations

- Students are ticketed for truancy at school
- Minimal cooperation between schools and programs like W-2 and Social Security
- No one is ultimately responsible for enforcement of attendance laws (schools, law enforcement, county)

Data Report: 2008-2009

- See attached for detailed report.

