



MODULE 01: THE CAUSES OF TRUANT BEHAVIOR



ABSENTEEISM

Chronic absenteeism means missing too much school for any reason, excused or unexcused. Many states define chronic absenteeism as missing 10% of the school year. This affects over six million students in the United States. That is about 13% of our total student population, with at least 10% of kindergarten and first-grade students missing a month or more of school each year.

Chronic absenteeism is also a big problem in many schools. Absenteeism is not a new issue, as school districts have focused on this issue as early as the late 19th century. 25% percent of the juveniles incarcerated at the Chicago House of Correction. In 1898 were there for truancy. Truancy has been part of American culture for a long time.

Additionally, research shows that chronic absenteeism is more common among economically disadvantaged students. For instance, a national study of kindergartens found that over 20% of their students were chronically absent compared to only 8% of their non-poor students. All attendance professionals need to stay updated and informed on the number of absences that result in truancy and the difference between an excused and unexcused absence.



LESSON 01: THE HOME

Issues at home can contribute to students being truant. If substance abuse is an issue at a student's house, it will increase their chances of being absent from school. Other problems such as divorce, physical and verbal abuse, and moving from place to place.

Reasons for truancy at home;

- Living on government assistance
- Unstable living environment
- At-home responsibilities
- Dysfunctional families
- Language barriers, etc.



LESSON 02: THE SCHOOL

Students who feel unsafe at school can cause them to be truant. Students with no friends and experience bullying are likely not to attend school; this can apply to students who look, act or dress differently from other students. Many students lack confidence in their mental abilities and will often skip school during testing.

Additional reasons include:

- Unqualified teachers
- Uninterested teacher and staff
- Transportation issues
- Student unchallenged
- Dysfunctional school culture, etc.



LESSON 03: DELINQUENCY

Teens who are not adequately supervised during the day because their parents are at work- are more likely to get involved in criminal activities if they are not in school. Also, absent students will engage or attempt to engage in substance abuse.

Additional reasons include:

- Work that does not require schooling
- Unsafe neighborhoods
- Local schools not tracking absences
- Limited social service options
- Few educational support services, etc.



Absenteeism decreases the ability of students to learn. It becomes challenging for students to catchup if they miss too many days of school; this results in students performing low academically and can cause them to become dropout prone. Being truant can also lead to problems way beyond highschool. Many truants will drop out of school, which will decrease their opportunity to pursue any career.

Often, truants will not seek opportunities to go to college because of low grades and lack of interest, which significantly reduces their employment options and increases the likelihood of living on low salaries and experiencing periods of unemployment for the rest of their lives.

The majority of offenses for which young people are getting suspended are nonviolent issues, including chronic absences and general classroom disruption, according to a 2014 systematic review. A 2017 report found that 43% of this country's severe display

According to the civil-rights data collection in 2015- 2016, black students were four times more likely to be suspended than their white peers. Other reports indicate that nearly $\frac{3}{4}$ of students with disabilities have been suspended at least once in their secondary school experience. Evidence and research show that suspensions do little to change behavior while they may push students out of school altogether.

Some states receive funding is based on the number of students enrolled. A school system may receive over \$7,000 for each student enrolled in their school system. Some states use average daily attendance (ADA), like California, Idaho, Mississippi, and Texas, which base allotments on students' numbers each day (Jones, 2018). This formula takes \$7,000 and splits it by 180 instructional days or \$40 a day for every school day in an average 180-day school year.



The schooldistrict loses \$40 a day when the student is not in attendance, but the district still has to meet payroll, maintain the building, run buses, etc. Whether the student is truant or absent (excused or unexcused), not being present on campus adds up. Ten thousand students in the district times a 180-day school year times 3% absence times at a \$40 average ADA rate equals \$2.16 million lost. Therefore, student attendance is essential, especially for multi-year budgeting with school systems looking at present and future funds and expenses.



WORKBOOK SECTION

1. What does Chronic absenteeism mean?

2. How does issues at home and school affects students?

3. "According to the civil-rights data collection in 2015- 2016" Explain absenteeism
