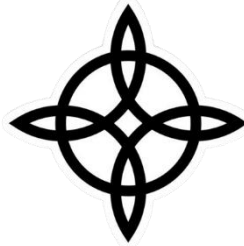


MODULE 04: STUDENT TRUANCY TYPES



There are many reasons students are consistently truant. But it is not unusual for students to continue to decide not to attend school. For example, it may result from home, school, or personal relationships with their friends and family. Some students are not motivated by the school, have trouble learning, and are unrecognized (this could cause them not to attend due to a lack of relationships with teachers and friends). Truancy is a significant indicator that students are likely to engage in illegal behavior when not on campus. Below is a non-exhaustive list of “students in truancy” categories to begin thinking about the different challenges students face as they reach certain attendance thresholds and prepare us to prioritize

STUDENT TRUANCY CATEGORIES

1. **Low-level truancy** – These students miss class or school on few occasions, and they usually pass their classes and miss something they think is more important to do on that particular day or during that class. They cannot get permission from the parent or the school to miss so that they will skip.
2. **Average daily attendance truancy** -- Many school districts have a certain period where students must be present to receive funds and be counted for the school day. Many students are quite aware of this, and some of them will be attending the ADA period and miss the rest of the day because many school campuses only track students based on this particular class period. Unfortunately, these students know they can get away with it.



3. **Class truancy** – These students will skip a certain period of the day. Some students are consistently late and get counted absent, while others have a problem with a teacher or another student they do not like and skip that class. Then, other students will miss class after lunch and simply go home early.
4. **Parent\Guardian condones truancy** – These students may miss some classes (or all day) because their parents allow them to miss school without consequences; it may be because the parent or guardian needs their assistance on that day or the child chose not to attend school knowing there would be no consequences.
5. **Habitual truancy** – These students miss a considerable number of days or classes within a specific timeframe with and without their parents' knowledge. These students often have ongoing personal issues at school as well as at home.



LESSON 01: CONFERENCING WITH STUDENTS ABOUT THEIR ABSENTEEISM

Staff needs to engage students in conversations to the root cause of their absenteeism. Student needs to be mentally prepared to have this conversation because it can take them unprepared to go. It is not unusual for students to bring up situations at home that are uncomfortable for them to discuss and could be more painful for campus personnel to hear. But staff must be prepared to have these types of conversations with students. It is also essential that identify campus staff who can help with complex disclosures from students they bring to our campus daily.

It is also not unusual for things to happen right there on the school campus, making them feel uncomfortable, so they are not attending class or school. It is not uncommon for students to carry around unresolved personal issues that school personnel are unaware of but can regularly affect their decision to come to school. The school's goal should be to find ways to assist students and make them feel comfortable about attending classes and situations at home. But often, even with issues at home, the parent/care givers expect their child to be at school daily.

When speaking to students about absenteeism, it is good to ask specific questions to address particular concerns. See below for examples.

1. When do you decide not to attend school?
2. Do your parents know?
3. When you choose not to attend school classes, are you alone?
4. What would help you choose to attend school daily?
5. Is there anyone in your life who can help encourage you not to miss school or classes?
6. Can you help me understand why you decided to skip school/class?
7. What exactly are you doing when you are not in class or school?
8. Can I help with any issues that may be causing you not to attend all of your classes?
9. Is there someone on campus you would feel more comfortable talking to?



CAMPUS RELATED CAUSES OF TRUANCY

When students feel unwanted and unimportant, sometimes they will decide to skip class or school.

Listed below are campus contributing factors that may cause students to be truant.

1. Staff is happy some students miss or ignore the course.
2. Students are allowed to get away with missing class.
3. Students do not feel safe.
4. Campus personnel has become hostile toward students and parents.
5. Teachers with inferior teaching styles.
6. School personnel and teachers have poor relationships with students and parents.
7. Sta with little or no training.
8. Insufficient software support.
9. No clear direction on attendance policies and responsibility.
10. Proper use of attendance codes.
11. Teachers not taking attendance.
12. Diversity issues

Also, we know that school factors such as stereotyping, low expectations, an inappropriate multicultural approach, and an uninviting school environment can contribute to students deciding not to attend school. Additionally, several teachers stereotype students, maybe homophobic, etc., and express their racist values indirectly towards students, although they will not admit it (obviously).

However, students usually become aware of biased remarks about their ethnicity or sexual orientation. They are significantly affected by these statements or feelings towards them and become dropout prone.



WORKBOOK SECTION

1. Explain the reason why students are consistently truant

2. List student truancy categories

3. Examples of what to ask when speaking to students about absenteeism



4. What are the campus contributing factors that may cause students to be truant?
