

MODULE 03: PREPARING FOR A PARENT OF TRUANT STUDENTS



STUDENT ABSENTEEISM

Certain types of parents condone absenteeism. These types have been divided into five groups, but arguably, some can be combined. Therefore, it is essential to identify and understand the parents you are dealing with to produce the best from your efforts. The five groups are defenseless or liable parents, reckless or careless parents, discouraged parents, naysayers of education parents, and dismissive parents

Group 1: The Defenseless or Liable Parents

These parents tend to be followers and are not very proactive. They condone any action or inaction of which their children may be guilty. If they decide to contact any school personnel, they apologize for any action the students have taken. For many parents in this group, school is not a priority for their children and was probably not a priority for them growing up. These parents will often go along with their children's bad decisions instead of giving them advice. The defenseless parents are really bad on follow-ups and any school recommendations on improving the child's education.

They will continue to ignore the reality of their child's unhealthy behavior, which will cause the student to continue to be absent from school and jeopardize their education (Reid, 2002).



Group 2: The Reckless or Careless Parents

Reckless parents tend to hate to see their kids attend school. These parents have issues they have never resolved and need their kids at home to support them emotionally. In some cases, many of these parents may have a medical condition, and they feel like it is more important for their child to stay home and care for them rather than attend classes.

Many of these parents tend to be in and out of unhealthy relationships with their partners, and the kids tend to make these parents feel much better, which means students stay at home. These parents constantly condone and make excuses for their children who do not attend school. Many of these parents need some emotional support and professional counseling themselves.

Group 3: The Discouraged Parents

This group of parents is probably the most misunderstood parents out of all the groups. These parents rarely condone their children's absenteeism from school. Many of these parents feel their schools have let them down. They tend to have an unstable family history, chaotic lives because their kids refuse to attend school. Also, their kids tend to be very disrespectful to them and have some behavioral issues on campus.

Many of these parents feel they are doing their very best in raising their children and attempting to get their kids to school every day. When their children miss and skip school without their permission, it causes many concerns for this parent. Many of these parents feel they do not have any support from the community or the student's school, and they think they have attempted and tried everything they know to get their child back into school.



Group 4: The Naysayer of Education Parents

These types of parents have no benefit to their children attending school. They tend to be angry regarding communication with any personnel on the school campus. These parents' educational history seems to be exceptionally low regarding standards, and they may have been dropouts or did not do very well in school themselves. Their family history tends to be from one with a lack of interest in any educational settings.

Many of these parents live at or below the poverty line and have personal problems that have not been resolved. Many parents may depend on government assistance while struggling to keep food and clothing in their household. Many students live in single-parent homes in unsafe neighborhoods and have many siblings, which adds to the parents' grief. Such environments are incredibly uncomfortable for many students, removing the priority of studying, reading, and education in general.

Group 5: The Dismissive Parent

In some regards, this is the most challenging parent to attempt to communicate with. They refuse to hold their kids liable for any behavior. They rarely confront their kids about being accountable for anything that happens or does not happen regarding their educational development. For example, instead of holding their children responsible for missing an excessive number of days in class, they blame their teachers.

These parents also fault with the administration but will not recognize that their child's absenteeism has accumulated, which led to failing grades. Instead, they will state that if the teachers were doing a better job and the administration monitored their classroom teachers, their children would be doing a lot better (Reid, 2002).

Understanding the types of parent's school personnel have to deal with, as discussed here, will hopefully make it a little bit easier for teachers, administrators, and attendance specialists to prepare for dealing with these parents concerning their child's education. As previously stated, these groups can be interchangeable.



SAMPLE NOTIFICATION TO PARENTS WHO CONDONE ABSENCE:

Notice to parent condoning absenteeism

Dear Parent/Guardian:

Our campus would like all students to attend school every day. Attending school every day will significantly influence how successful our students are in life. Parents are the driving force in making sure students get to school safely every day and ensuring they understand how important it is. Too many of our students, however, are often not in school with parental permission. Instead of missing for family emergencies and illness, there seem to be too many invalid reasons:

- Birthdays
- Family in town
- Hanging out with a parent
- Babysitting siblings
- Shopping
- Family vacations
- Hair and/or nail appointments

These absences are not acceptable, and your child may think that daily attendance is not crucial and that it is ok to miss school.



WORKBOOK SECTION

1. What does the defendless or liable parents means?

2. What does the naysayer of education parent means?

3. Explain the dismissive parent?
