

MODULE 15: HOME VISITS



School district personnel conduct home visits for a variety of reasons. Home visits can be vital in communicating with parents regarding student attendance issues. Depending on a school personnel position, the district will determine what type of home visit they will be conducting. Social workers, attendance officers, outreach workers, teachers, and campus administrators may have different reasons for visiting parents in their homes. These visits could be scheduled and unscheduled depending on the goal of the visits. School personnel should conduct home visits because communication between parent and student has broken down to the point that the student's whereabouts may be unknown or parents are nonresponsive to communication attempts. Some visits may be scheduled because the parent may have disabilities or lack transportation.

School staff must have school identification so that the community and the family know who is approaching their home. Most school personnel responsible for conducting a home visit with nonresponsive parents and the students' unknown whereabouts will not have a school district vehicle identified with the school's logo on the side. Therefore, simply wearing apparel that can quickly identify school district employees would be beneficial. Visiting parents and students in their homes can open up a line of communication that may be difficult to accomplish on a school campus or in an administrator's office. In addition, when campus personnel visit a student's home, they can better understand the student's living conditions, family needs, and challenges they may or may not have attending school. Regardless of the reasoning for conducting a home visit, the most important thing to consider is that the school staff is a guest in the family's home.



Whether staff is in the living room, on the porch, or in the driveway, that home belongs to the parents. Below are a few goals and safety tips concerning home visits:

1. Be clear that school staff is there because the student missed an unacceptable number of days, and attempts to contact a family have failed. Or any other reason for a visit.
2. Provide in-person information regarding attendance laws and parental contact.
3. Keep respectful conversation with parents.
4. Evaluate the family environment.
5. Create a case plan for attendance improvement.
6. Individualize intervention planning.

Discuss long-term and short-term goals for attendance improvement. Link parents to local resources as needed. Encourage parents to continue working with their child in removing barriers between parent and child in the school.

Tips for some safe visit:

1. Survey the property before getting out of the car or inside the home.
2. Always verify the address and ask about pets if it is a scheduled visit.
3. Notify campus personnel as to the location and length of the visit.
4. Be conscious of cash and credit cards on your person.
5. Refrain from having valuables in your car and not having them in view.
6. Do not park your car in the family driveway.
7. Make sure you check the interior of your vehicle before you leave it.
8. Always have keys in your hand.
9. Make sure your ID is viewable.
10. Wear a district shirt or jacket.
11. If you enter the home with deadbolt locks, make sure parents do not lock you in.



WORKBOOK SECTION

1. Why is home visit important in school?

2. What are the safety tips concerning home visits?

3. List some save visit.
