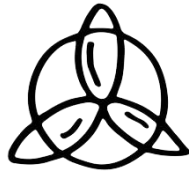


MODULE 02: COST OF ABSENTEEISM



Truancy has a significant negative impact on communities; it creates poorly educated students for our workforce and increases the crime rate. Dropping out causes our students to be less educated, making a generation of poverty for families because they cannot break the cycle. This continuing cycle of poorly educated students begins to normalize, and depending on the government for assistance becomes an acceptable means of living. Being incarcerated becomes a reality for some of these families who have generations of members being conned.

It is not unusual for some families to have generations of family members in and out of jail. It is not uncommon for some family members to have a father and a grandfather incarcerated due to criminal activity. This is partly because these family members were uneducated, unable to sustain employment, and needed to do what they thought was best to support their family.

In reality, these men and women start families without a tangible way to help children and get into criminal activities to support their families. Not finishing school and no formal education make it difficult for many adults to support their families. And when these individuals have criminal records because of their choices, it creates little opportunities due to no formal training or education, making it even more difficult for them in the future.



PARTIAL VS FULL SCHOOL DAYS ABSENCE

Studies indicate that part-time absences are much more prevalent than full-time absences on any given day. A more significant number of students have zero or near zero full-day absences than partial absences. Students who experience full-time absences are more likely to experience part-time absences as well. Additionally, the absent part-time rate is four times as high as the full-time rate. Therefore, schools that only track full-day absences or ADA need to follow the student who misses part of the day because those numbers may be more extensive.

Students may be involved in activities that can land them in trouble when not attending school. Students appear to miss part of the day rather than a full day. For the most part, these class period absences are unexcused and begin to increase as students transition from middle school to high school. African-American and Latino students have a very alarming high rate of unexcused chronic absences. Partial day absences are very prevalent in secondary education.

As a result, students miss a more significant number of class periods on specific days than the whole day. And we know that most of them are unexcused, which only worsens as students transition from middle school to high school. Each campus needs to ensure that attendance remains a priority when targeting students for interventions, identifying the most missing students.



WORKBOOK SECTION

1. How does truancy has a significant negative impact on communities?

2. Why do students get into criminal activities?
