

School Survey of the Truancy Process and Resources in Benton/Franklin Counties

Survey Respondent and School Information

Please complete this information about yourself and your school.

Name:

Position:

Length of Employment at Current Position:

Gender:

Male

Female

Age:

Race:

White

African-American

Asian

Native American

Other (please specify):

Hispanic Origin:

Yes

No

School District:

School Name:

School Level:

Elementary School

High School

Middle School

Alternative School

Please specify level:

Truancy Causes and Process

In this section, we would like to gather some information about your perceptions of truancy and its causes and solutions. If specific questions are not applicable to your school, please mark "N/A".

1. How much of a problem do you consider truancy to be in your building?

2. The Truancy law reads that: 5 or more unexcused absences in one month or 10 or more unexcused absences in one year is a violation of state law. Do you consider these figures to be appropriate limits?

3. It appears that there is wide disparity present across schools with respect to Becca procedures. How valuable do you think it is to allow schools to set their own procedures? (please explain below)

4. In your opinion, how important is it to the operation of your school to reduce truancy?

5. How important do you think it is to higher levels administrators (i.e., superintendents, OSPI, etc.) to reduce truancy?

6. At what point do you think students begin demonstrating chronic non-attendance behaviors?

7. Earlier surveys have determined that, in many cases, truancy is a symptom of larger issues. For each of the issues listed below, identify whether you believe this issue is a major cause of truancy, plays some role, or is not a cause of truancy.

- a. Poverty
- b. Drug/alcohol problems for the youth
- c. Drug/alcohol problems for the parent
- d. Parenting
- e. Abandonment
- f. Child abuse/neglect
- g. Low educational achievement of the youth
- h. Low parental educational achievement/attachment
- i. Youth's lack of attachment to school
- j. Youth mental illness
- k. Parent mental illness
- l. Lack of access to social services
- m. Bullying or victimization

8. Are there other causes of truancy that you can think of that are not listed above?

9. Which of these causes do you think are the three most significant factors in truancy?

1)

3)

2)

10. In your opinion, are the causes of truancy different for children at different ages?

- Yes No

11. What is the response of your school to pre-petition students with periodic unexcused absences?

12. How often does the parent conference occur after two unexcused absences in a month?

13. How/where does the parent conference usually occur?

Other:

14. In your school, are truancy petitions filed for every student who meets the legal criteria for being truant?

Yes

No

If you answered NO,

a. What makes it most likely a truancy petition will be filed on an absent student?

b. What makes it least likely a truancy petition will be filed on an absent student?

15. Community truancy boards are used as an initial intervention by the Juvenile Court. What do you believe to be the major role/purpose of truancy boards?

16. How effective do you think these truancy boards are in changing truant behavior?

17. How effective do you think these truancy boards are in linking students with needed resources?

18. In your opinion, how could these boards become more effective?

19. How successful is the filing of truancy petitions in reducing truancy among students in your building?

20. In your school, would petitioning the parents be more or less effective than petitioning the students?

21. In your school, approximately how many students with BECCA petitions filed are suspended for 20 consecutive days of non-attendance?

22. In your school, approximately how many students with BECCA petitions filed are dropped for 20 consecutive days of non-attendance?

23. Of the causes of truancy described in question 7, what conditions do you think are the three most important contributors to non-compliance with the requirements of a truancy petition (or what other conditions not listed contribute most to non-compliance)?

1)

2)

3)

24. Are truancy contempt petitions filed for every student who meets the criteria for being in contempt of their truancy petition?

- Yes No

If you answered NO,

a. What makes it most likely a contempt petition will be filed?

b. What makes it least likely a contempt petition will be filed?

25. Based on your experience, is the filing of truancy contempt petitions successful in reducing truancy amongst students in your building?

26. The Becca Bill process allows for the petition to be purged after meeting certain conditions. Based on your experience, is this process effective in changing behavior?

Truancy Programs and Resources

In this section, we would like to ask about resources (e.g., programs or dedicated personnel) that are dedicated to dealing with student absences and truancy cases in your school building.

27. What do you believe is the best approach for reducing student absences/truancy in your school?

28. In your opinion, is there a point in a child's life when intervention is most likely to succeed in dealing with a truancy problem?

Yes when:

No

29. In your school, are there sufficient resources dedicated to identifying and managing student absences before truancy petitions are filed?

30. In your school, are there individuals whose jobs are dedicated to working with absent or truant students? (If so, please list the positions below.)

Yes No

31. In your school, are there established programs dedicated to identifying and addressing the needs of absent or truant youth? (If so, please list below.)

Yes No

32. In your school, are there established programs dedicated to identifying and addressing the needs of absent or truant youths' families? (If so, please list below.)

Yes No

33. In your opinion, should alternative education be used more as a strategy for dealing with truancy problems?

34. Would you be willing to attend a Truancy Summit in August to discuss these issues further?

Yes No

Thank you very much for your participation in this survey! Please either print a copy to return to the researchers or submit the form by email (see below). Copies of the report compiled from these survey results will be available at the Truancy Summit to be held in August. If you have additional comments or suggestions for how the truancy/petition process could be improved, you may also provide those below. We appreciate all of your input.