

2008-09 Attendance Campaign

Developed by the Principals and Truancy Prevention Work Group- August 2007

Back-to-School open house/parent sessions –

- Spend at least five minutes talking with parents about the importance of good attendance
- Provide handouts or other written information explaining the benefits of good attendance, attendance expectations and the consequences for poor attendance
- Share information on programs available to help students or families struggling with attendance

Student forums and other contact -

- Dedicate time for talking with students about the importance of good attendance within the first or second week of school and let them know of the consequences for poor attendance
- Use daily announcements to remind students that they are valued and need to be in school every day

Teachers and other faculty –

- Talk to staff about strategies for encouraging good attendance, including rewards and recognition of students with attendance at or above 90%
- Tell staff about the County Attorney Program and courthouse meetings. Provide them with copies of the resources developed by the work group (letters, brochures, etc.)

Identify problems early –

- Identify students that had attendance issues last school year. Call a meeting at the start of the year with these students to let them know that you are concerned. Tell them what the consequences for poor attendance will be for the coming school year.
- **FOLLOW THROUGH WITH CONSEQUENCES!**
- Set up a system at the start of the school year with the attendance clerk or secretary for monitoring students with a history of poor attendance. Use the Attendance Interventions Strategies Check List, if possible.
- Monitor attendance for all students closely and contact parents to set up a face-to-face meeting for those students that display poor attendance habits and patterns.

Incentive & reward programs –

- Implement school-wide incentive or reward programs for students with good attendance
- Encourage teachers to establish individual classroom rewards or incentives for students with good attendance
- Establish short term rewards by scheduling weekly or monthly free time (play ground, in the gym, reading, etc.) for those students with good attendance
- Recognize good attendance for all students, and especially for those that may have had attendance issues in the past

Routine awareness and promotion –

- Highlight attendance in monthly newsletters and other routine correspondence with parents and students
- Send articles and information about county-wide and district activities to the local newspapers
- Invite representatives from Human Service or the County Attorney's office to talk to students and/or parents