

KANE COUNTY

Truancy Prevention

A Collaborative Approach



March 2021



AGENDA

- General Information
- Collaborative Approach
- Truancy Definition
- Interventions
- Referral Process



COMPULSORY SCHOOL ATTENDANCE

- Child Labor Laws
- Early 1800's
- Prevent Unsafe Conditions for Children
- Continues to be an issue in other countries today
- Public School System is Valuable Component of Democracy
- Video Preview
 - <https://youtu.be/HpbumLeXcwY>

Imagine if your elementary age child working here?



Standing on Unstable Surface with Moving Parts

Operating Machinery with No Shoes

KANE COUNTY REGIONAL OFFICE OF EDUCATION

- Located at 28 North 1st Street, Geneva
- Regional Superintendent: Pat Dal Santo
- Assistant Regional Superintendent: Deanna Oliver
- Our mission is to advocate for education, provide leadership, perform regulatory functions, and coordinate state and local services for educators, school districts and the community.



REGIONAL OFFICES OF EDUCATION FUNCTIONS

- Teacher Licensure
- High School Equivalency Testing/GED
- Fingerprinting
- Educator Professional Development
- School District Compliance
- Health Life Safety in School Buildings
- School Transportation Training
- Support Alternative Schools (Districts & Juvenile Justice Center)
 - Truancy & Homeless Outreach
 - Technology Support
 - Community Advocate for Education
 - Facilitate Grants
 - Host Network Meetings



KANE COUNTY ROE YOUTH OUTREACH STAFF

- **Josh Axelsen**, Coordinator of Alternative Programs - jaxelsen@kaneroe.org - 630-444-2967
- **Kari Glenn**, Youth Outreach - kglenn@kaneroe.org - 630-444-2968
- **Erin Hurley**, Youth Outreach - ehurley@kaneroe.org - 630-444-3157
- **Belvin Jordan**, Youth Outreach - bjordan@kaneroe.org - 630-444-2970
- **Alex Moreno**, Youth Outreach - amoreno@kaneroe.org - 630-444-2969
- **Angela Smith**, Youth Outreach - asmith@kaneroe.org - 630-444-2969
- **Deb Dempsey**, Homeless Education - ddempsey@kaneroe.org - 630-444-2974
- **Eleanor Morris**, Administrative Assistant – School Transportation, Home School, Truancy, and Juvenile Drug Court - emorris@kaneroe.org - 630-444-3401



ROE Website

ALTERNATIVE PROGRAMS»

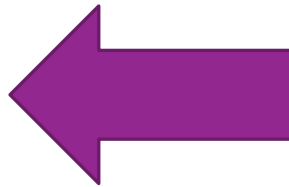
Truancy Prevention

Looking to file a referral to our office? Please click here to use our new secure, digital truancy form for submissions. **Firefox, Google Chrome & Safari web browsers preferred**

Locate Your Outreach Worker

2016-2017 Digital Truancy Referral

2016-2017 Truancy Manual



The Kane County Truancy/Dropout Prevention/Intervention Program provides services for a multi-cultural, diverse community. The Program is a coordinated effort between all of the local school districts in the county, local governmental agencies, community agencies, social service agencies, and the Regional Office of Education.

Our program receives referrals from our local schools. Each individual case receives a variety of program option services that include, but are not limited to: youth outreach services (school visits, home visits, educational monitoring, advocacy, individual therapy, family therapy, community agency referrals, parenting education, etc.), case management, court liaison, prevention education and dropout intervention services.

All grade levels are served with intensive intervention/prevention services targeted for chronic truants. These include development of an individual service plan, diagnostic profile needs, case management, goal setting, connection to the community services, advocacy, supportive parental involvement including home visits, family and group counseling and reinforcing positive attendance per student, per family, and per school.

PARTNERS IN TRUANCY PREVENTION



Our School Districts



ROLES

- Families
- Schools/ School Districts
 - Exhaust Interventions
 - Refer Early!
 - Provide insight beyond attendance records
- ROE
 - Verification and case screening
 - Individualized Service Plans
 - Provide post-adjudication case management
- State's Attorney's Office
 - Screen cases
 - Draft petitions
 - Prosecute Minors and Parent



WAYS FOR PARENTS SUPPORT EXCELLENT ATTENDANCE

- Healthy Habits

- Structured Routines
- Starting the Day
- Eating Breakfast
- Sleep
- Turn off the electronics & monitor Internet usage
- Surround your children with positive role models



- Encourage children to discuss their concerns with parents and the school staff.

- Homework
- Anxiety
- Conflict

- Non-Negotiable Expectations—Discuss and Remind

- Communicate with Teachers, Counselors, and Administrators

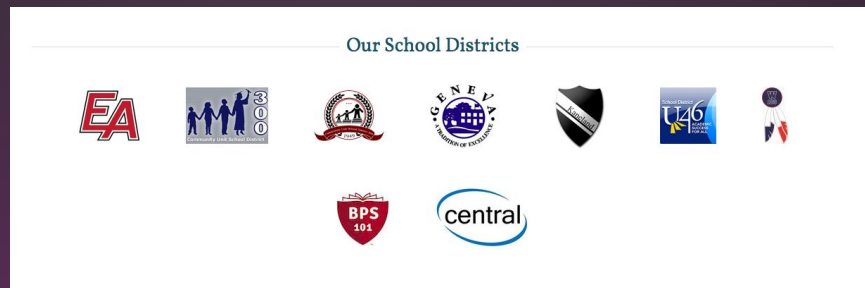
- Utilize School & Community Resources

- www.kanecountyguide.org
- <https://vimeo.com/101425388>



OTHERS INVOLVED IN TRUANCY PREVENTION?

- School District Staff
 - Administrators, Deans, Social Workers, Teachers, Bus Drivers, Attendance Clerks & Administrative Assistants
- Regional Office of Education
 - Outreach Workers, Coordinator of Alternative Programs, Assistant Superintendent
- State's Attorney's Office
 - Assistant State's Attorneys



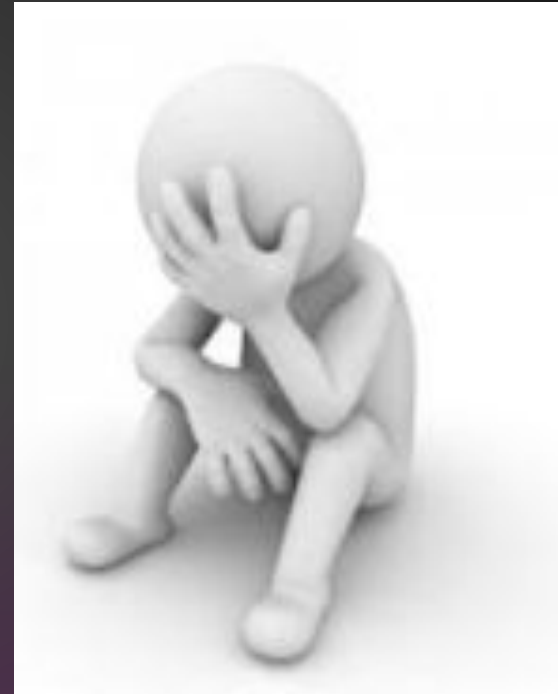
WHO IS A CHRONIC TRUANT?

A chronic truant is a student between **ages 6 and 17** who is absent without valid cause **5% (9 days)** or more of the last **180** school attendance days.



SCHOOL INTERVENTIONS

- Assessment of School Climate
- Universal Screening Practices
- Professional Development for School Staff
- Phone calls to parent
- Personalized Informational Attendance Letters
- Home visits
- Parent/student conference
- Utilize community based services
- Staffing with faculty teams
- Visits with school social worker
- Mentoring
- Attendance contract
- Consistent positive interventions with student
- Alternative programming



THE REFERRAL PROCESS

- Referrals to the ROE can be made online.
- Before a referral is made, the schools must provide and document 3 interventions with the student and family.
- Interventions are listed on the referral form. Any agencies or services that were contacted should be listed and contacts should be listed if available.
- The name of the truancy officer is listed with the referral, and a letter will be sent to the family once the referral is processed.



TRUANCY REFERRAL FORM

Verizon LTE 11:46 AM
 THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION MUST BE COMPLETELY FILLED OUT BEFORE WE PROCESS THIS REFERRAL.
 74.116.25.114

of Referrals to ROE this Year School Date
 Hanover Countryside Elementary 2013-2014 Truancy 8/28/2014

Student's Name	First Name	Last Name	Grade	D.O.B.
Address				SIS #
City	Zip		Gender	Race

Parent/Guardian	Home Phone
Father's Work Phone	Mother's Work Phone
Emergency Phone	
Siblings	Names and Schools attending

Marital Status of parents/guardians	Receives Special Ed Services
Language spoken by Parents	Receives Bilingual Services
Language spoken by Student	Receives Public Aid
	Homeless

Attendance Data:

of Days Absent
 Excused Unexcused Suspended Total Absences This Year

of Times Tardy: # of Times Suspended: Total Absences Last Year

Documentation of these interventions is necessary. Please put dates and comments in the notes area below.
 The Illinois School Code requires schools to take measures to assist the student and his/her family in resolving an attendance problem

SCHOOL INTERVENTIONS -- TRUANCY:

PHONE CALLS TO PARENTS
 WARNING LETTERS TO PARENTS
 HOME VISITS
 CONFERENCES WITH STUDENT

ARE ANY CURRENT PLACEMENTS PENDING?
 CONFERENCES WITH PARENT(S)
 STAFFING
 OTHER AGENCIES INVOLVED:



SCHOOL PERSONNEL

- Refer early- The process takes time!
- An administrator should approve/ sign-off on referrals to confirm interventions
- Look at trends and student's siblings/ family history
- Provide background insight into Minor's circumstances
 - Medical Issues, home issues- transient students
- Provide Attendance and Academic Updates once students/ parents move on to Court



TRUANCY INTERVENTION STEPS

- 1st Referral: Truancy letter is sent to the family
- 2nd Referral: School Conference- Individual Service Plan is created and Attendance Contract is signed.
- 3rd Referral: Regional Conference- Assistant Regional Superintendent certifies appropriate truancy intervention services have been provided



NOT SURE?

- All referrals are reviewed by the Regional Office of Education and the State's Attorney's Office
- When in doubt, refer or feel free to contact your assigned youth outreach worker to screen a case



ROE INVOLVEMENT IN COURT PROCESS

- Pre-Court
 - Individualized Service Plan
 - Verify school use of interventions
 - Documentation is VERY important
- Court
 - Provide academic and attendance report to SAO
 - Obtain releases
- Post-Sentence
 - Facilitate Community Service/ Volunteer Work
 - Facilitate Counseling
 - Monitor Attendance
 - Monitor compliance with any other terms



STATE'S ATTORNEY'S OFFICE ROLE

- Screening to determine if there have been enough interventions to warrant a court case
- Prosecute parents and minors
 - Parents
 - Class C Misdemeanor
 - Possible Consequences
 - Students
 - Truant Minor in Need of Supervision–Juvenile Court Act
 - Outcomes: Volunteer Work, Fine, Driver's License, Counseling



AT COURT

- Parents and Minors in front of the same Judge
- Accountability
 - Inquire about school performance
 - Address any behavior issues
 - Attendance during the period between court dates
- Support
 - Address any issues voiced by minor
 - Provide direction towards resources if need be
 - Positive Reinforcement – less appearances
 - Consequences – Fines, drivers license, counseling, school attendance.



ORDER OF PROTECTIVE SUPERVISION

- Court order in parent's name
- Requires parents to do certain things
- Can include:
 - Having reliable transportation to/from school
 - Having reliable transportation to/from counseling
 - Participating in family counseling



BENEFITS

- Truant Minors Under Supervision may be court ordered to stay in school past the dropout age (17)
 - New GED is very difficult
 - Lots of scam virtual schools confuse student/parents
- Get students to school
- Cooperative effort between stakeholders
- Better utilization of resources already in place
- Professional monitoring while in court process
- More pressure on parents to cooperate



CLOSING

- Your ROE Youth Outreach staff serve as a professional resource to your district.
- Please include our staff in your collaborative meetings regarding truancy, attendance, and dropout prevention.
- If you would like professional development for your educators, the ROE is happy to customize services to meet your needs.
- Thank you for your service to the children of Kane County.
- Have a great school year.



REGIONAL OFFICE OF EDUCATION
KANE COUNTY

