

Truancy Intervention

The mediator from the Juvenile Court, who receives truancy mediation referrals from the ESC attendance officer, can be invited to the school building to meet with groups of students whose attendance has them on the path towards a possible filing with the Court for chronic truancy or unruliness.

These meetings, in a group setting, are where the students learn that a) they are NOT currently referred to Juvenile Court, nor do they have a juvenile court record, but b) their attendance status puts them at risk, with as few as one more unexcused absence, for having their parents/guardians asked to come to the school building during the school day for a meeting with a school administrator, the ESC attendance officer, and the mediator for the Juvenile Court. They receive c) a sample letter requesting them to participate in a truancy mediation & the Court description of mediation, and then d) we discuss common causes of unexcused absence.

All students participating in a Truancy Intervention are reminded that the meeting is informational only, and that if their parent/guardian has any questions, they are welcome to call the school, ESC attendance office, or the Juvenile Court to clarify what consequences are approaching. Each student is also given the chance to meet with school counselors or administrators if there are personal issues, or problems relating to incorrectly recorded absences -- often, appointments are made as the Truancy Intervention ends to discuss matters with school staff, and old medical excuses that had not been turned in are produced from book bags or students ask to go to their lockers to get medical excuses they had not yet turned in to the office.

At most Truancy Interventions, alarm clocks are made available to the students if they wish to take one, both cord & battery type, and the proper use and placement of alarm clocks in general is the last item before the Truancy Intervention meeting is ended, with the reminder that additional unexcused absence will likely result in a contact with the home by the Juvenile Court for a meeting at the school.