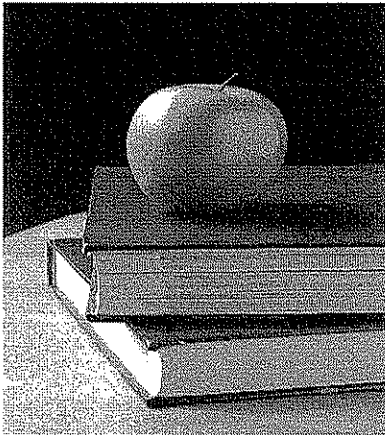


Let's stop truancy
together!



Schools cannot work in isolation in their attempt to keep children in school. An all-out community effort must be made to combat this problem at the local, state and national levels. Only with the cooperation among courts, agencies, schools and health providers can we hope to help students be successful in life and contribute to society.

Participating School Districts & Agencies

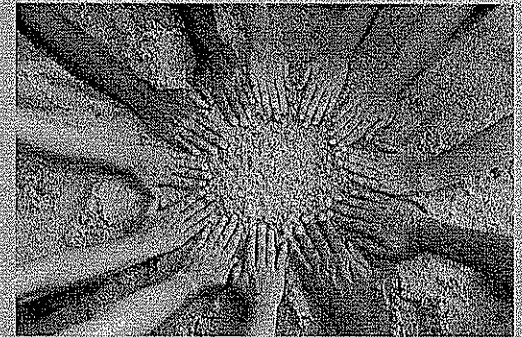
- Lancaster Children and Youth Agency
- COBYs
- Lancaster County Juvenile Probation
- Lancaster County MH/MR Youth Advocate Program
- Intermediate Unit 13
- Cocalico SD
- Columbia SD
- Conestoga Valley SD
- Donegal SD
- Eastern Lancaster County SD
- Ephrata SD
- Elizabethtown SD
- Hempfield SD
- Lampeter-Strasburg SD
- Manheim Central SD
- Manheim Township SD
- Penn Manor SD
- Pequea Valley SD
- School District of Lancaster
- Solanco SD
- Warwick SD
- Lancaster County Magisterial Judges

For more information contact:

Stacy Riffert
Penn Manor SD
Attendance Officer
(717) 872-9520 ext: 1824

Lancaster County School
Truancy Task Force

Ending Truancy
is everybody's
responsibility,
what are you
doing?



*The Mission of the Task Force
is...*

*Coordination and collaboration
to develop resources on common
best practices and to foster
interagency cooperation to
improve attendance for all
children.*

Together our community can limit truancy

Objectives

- *Improve attendance*
- *Share resources*
- *Community outreach*

Students who don't attend school regularly are more likely to:

- Drop out, which over their life-time will cost the nation approximately \$800,000 per drop out, in lost earnings and forgone taxes
- Engage in delinquent behavior in the community during the time in which they should be in school
- Experience family dysfunction
- Engage in substance abuse
- Struggle with social isolation
- May have an unwanted pregnancy
- Experience unemployment

For your information:

When a student is absent, parents must send in a note upon the student's return to school. Failure to provide a note means the absence may be marked unexcused/illegal. After several unexcused/illegal absences, there are interventions that can be done through a partnership between the schools, parents, and students. Even when the absence has a note, as the number of absences continue, the school will require a doctor's excuse for all subsequent absences as a way to combat truancy. Some people may try to avoid truancy issues by getting doctor's excuses for children who continue to miss school, even though the child isn't really sick. Because of this, schools are not able to address truancy because the absences are "excused", however, it is usually best to let the system work as the conversations with the team can help get services for children that may not ever get addressed through avoidance.

"Regular school attendance is a law in PA. Anything over 10 absences is considered excessive. "

Ways you can help:

- Refrain from writing excuses for students who are not physically seen in your office
- Be sure to include a date on excuses when students are expected to be medically able to return to school
- Contact school officials if you are concerned that a student is experiencing excessive needs for excuses yet doesn't display symptoms necessary to miss school
- Avoid back dating excuse cards
- Contact the child's school with any concerns
- Report any suspected abuses to the child's school

