



OAKLAND UNIFIED
SCHOOL DISTRICT

expect **Success**

**Board of Education Safety Committee
Presentation of
Attendance and Truancy Plan
2009-2010**

August 18, 2009

Attend and Achieve Plan

Program Goals

1. To provide support to Schools to meet the District wide Student Attendance Targets

Level	2006-2007 Attendance	2007-2008 Attendance	2008-2009 Attendance
Elementary	95.15%	95.08%	95.34%
Middle	94.55%	94.35%	94.28%
High School	91.87%	93.67%	92.95%
Alt Ed	88.96%	89.48%	90.01%
District	94.15%	94.50%	94.52%

2. To provide support to Schools to reduce truancy rates.
3. Reduce high school drop out rates/ Increase high school graduation

Attend and Achieve Ten Point Plan

The “Attend and Achieve” Plan, was launched five years ago with the generous support of many civic and community partners.

The key components of the plan for 2009-2010 include:

1. Communication and Engagement Campaign
2. Build School Staff Capacity
3. Data and Accountability reports and systems
4. Parent Education and Outreach
5. Notification of Truancy (NOT) Letters
6. SART/ SARB/ District Attorney’s Office
7. Truancy Task Force/ OUSD Partners
8. School Security Officers
9. Pilot best practice programs
10. Truancy Diversion and Return to School process with OUSD/OPD.

Truancy Reduction Progress Report

Truant Student Counts^ - All Day Incidents Only

Group	Type	Truant Count		Change
		0708	0809	
3-10 Dates	Elementary*	3796	3538	-7%
	Middle	1870	1489	-20%
	Senior	2199	2208	0%
11-19 Dates	Elementary*	761	567	-25%
	Middle	494	350	-29%
	Senior	599	660	10%
20+ Dates	Elementary*	445	302	-32%
	Middle	264	201	-24%
	Senior	558	606	9%

**includes K-8 schools*

^Only active students are included in these counts for both years

2008-2009 Accomplishments

- Site Leaders promoting a variety of strategies including home-school communication, conducting SARTs, identifying resources for most truant students and reward programs.
- Multi-stakeholder, Truancy Task Force conducted successful Attend and Achieve Campaign including 7 community events/ walks covering 10 schools and back to school rallies including student focus groups, recognitions, home visits and door to door outreach to distribute truancy tip line.
- Professional development for school leaders and staff on appropriate attendance accounting and SART process.
- Strong partnership with the Alameda County/ District Attorney's office to support prevention efforts and innovative pilots (e.g. Claremont Middle School Truancy Court, Parent Truant program, etc..).
- Monthly monitoring reports distributed to School Leaders to raise awareness and accountability.

Highlights of Attendance & Truancy Reduction

ACTION PLAN 2009 -2010

- Continue to build capacity of staff performing attendance function to improve home school communication, accurate data entry and data analysis with principals.
- All teachers start taking attendance Day 1 on line using ABI, at technology enabled schools, so that schools can open the PARENT PORTAL to monitor student attendance.
- Streamline SART/ SARB/ DA process to ensure higher number of cases resolved by mid year and/or referred to District Attorney, especially to the “parent truant program” which has an 84% success rate. *All schools received a Pre-SART agreement for students with 10 or more days absent/ truant in 2008-2009 so that they can ask families and students to sign BEFORE first day of school.*

TRUANCY REDUCTION ACTION PLAN 2009 -2010

CONTINUED

- Partner with OPD to provide advocates for 150 of the most truant middle and high school students in program called “Building Healthy Minds” and work with community partners to identify mentors for 5 most truant students at all elementary schools.
- Expand Attend and Achieve Community Campaign to continue to engage students, families and community to reduce truancy.
- Expand rewards and recognition programs to promote positive attendance.
- Integrate Attend and Achieve Office into FCO to increase partnership and focus on families role in reducing truancy with a key pilot on early chronic absenteeism for elementary schools.

Why Does Chronic Early Absence Matter?

- Consistent attendance starting in the early grades is critical to gaining the social and academic skills essential to school success.
 - Chronic absence in kindergarten predicts lower academic achievement in 1st grade for all children and the lowest achievement among 5th graders living in poverty.
 - If children miss extended periods of school in their first years, they are unlikely to “learn to read” so they can “read to learn” by 4th grade.
 - Chronic early absence can reach high levels locally – as high as 25% district wide or half of all the children in a particular elementary school.
 - Consistently poor attendance, year after year, in the early grades predicts continued poor attendance by the end of elementary school. Poor attendance in 6th grade predicts high school drop out.

Family Engagement to Address Chronic Absence

Goal

Support 20 schools to develop and implement action plans to address chronic absence

Objectives

- Secure principal buy-in
- Identify and convene action team
- Provide training, tools, a learning community, and technical assistance
- Develop action plans
- Document process and results

Parents for Success Program

Goal

Pilot the program with 5 schools to engage 25 families (per school) to address attendance, reading fluency, and behavior

Objectives

- Training has been completed
- Identify, enroll and secure commitment from families
- Create Fluency Wall
- Provide “I Am Here and Ready to Learn” training
- Provide case management support to families
- Provide teacher training