

## Spokane County *Models For Change* Truancy Mapping Strategic Opportunities for Reform for Schools

<b>Reform Opportunities for Schools</b>	<b>Notes</b>
<b>Step 1: Child accruing unexcused absences: School interventions</b>	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Clear and consistent policies and procedures within a school district: define an unexcused absence including single periods and school and school interventions for unexcused absences</li> <li>2. Through student data system (for example, Skyward), automatically generate letter of concern to be sent home when child meets criteria of 3,5,7,10 unexcused absences. The letter could be from school or district. Be sure the letter includes warnings regarding possible consequences of noncompliance. Schedule a conference with school, student, and parents.</li> <li>3. School staff assigned to monitor attendance and initiate interventions.</li> <li>4. Give child and guardian WARNS</li> <li>5. Arrange services to meet needs</li> <li>6. Set up meeting with parents, youth, and school to talk about attendance problems earlier in process</li> <li>7. Collect data to document number of children who respond to interventions, reengage in school and do not have stay petitions filed.</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2. EVSD is attempting this through their calling system. They will update us and could possibly provide information as to how to implement this in other districts if successful.</li> <li>3. Many school districts have staff assigned to monitor attendance.</li> <li>4. The WARNS is currently being piloted in West Valley and the SAC school.</li> </ol>
<b>Step 2: Child has 5 or 7 unexcused absences in a month or 10 in a year</b>	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Early and timely truancy petition filing</li> <li>2. School staff assigned to monitor attendance and initiate interventions</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Judicial Officers emphasized the importance of filing early and every time a student is eligible. Schools are not required to document interventions until the amended petition is filed.</li> </ol>
<b>Step 3: School files truancy stay petition with Superior Court</b>	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. If documentation shows they are effective, have a Community Truancy Board and Truancy Specialist in every district.</li> <li>2. Look into possibility that Truancy Stay petition paperwork could be electronically generated and filed, rather than in person or by mail.</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Juvenile Court, in collaboration with MfC and WSU, is studying the CTB in WVSD.</li> <li>2. Juvenile Court, in collaboration with MfC and GJJAC, has two Truancy specialists currently working in West Valley and Spokane Public Schools. Effectiveness of these specialists is being documented and reported.</li> <li>3. EVSD is attempting automatic generation of</li> </ol>

## Spokane County *Models For Change* Truancy Mapping Strategic Opportunities for Reform for Schools

	truancy paperwork by their calling system.
<b>Step 4: Superior Court receives, files stay petition and sends letter to child and family.</b>	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Schools could contact the Truancy Coordinator for information regarding students who transfer from other districts to see if they have previous Truancy petitions.</li> <li>2. Stay petitions need to be filed as soon as youth are eligible so the “Court” letter can (hopefully) encourage attendance.</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Follow up will be done with the Court Truancy Coordinator to see if/how best to provide this information.</li> <li>2. The Court has had good results in student re-engagement when the “Court” letter is sent to the student and family.</li> </ol>
<b>Step 5: School monitors attendance: Does child attend school and meeting credit requirements?</b>	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Assign a staff member/s to monitor children with truancy petitions</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Juvenile Court Truancy specialists are currently working in two districts. Additional duties tracking truant youth has been assigned to an EVSD intervention counselor.</li> </ol>
<b>Step 7: If student does not comply with stay petition, school continues interventions and files amended truancy petition with Superior Court</b>	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. School conference held for <b>all</b> truant children prior to fact finding hearing: focus on school reengagement and challenges preventing child from attending school; school, child and parent/guardian together develop a plan and agree on action steps</li> <li>2. Child Study Team (CST) or other meeting held, prior to fact finding hearing, to make appropriate school or placement changes</li> <li>3. School attendance tracking systems could automatically generate notification and/or amended petitions as soon as a student qualifies.</li> <li>4. Amended petitions filed as soon as youth is eligible so court involvement can support schools efforts.</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>3. Currently being attempted in EVSD.</li> <li>4. Be sure to file petitions early and as soon as possible to encourage student re-engagement prior to accumulation of large #s of absences. The Court process can sometimes take weeks.</li> </ol>
<b>Step 10: If facts support petition by preponderance of evidence: Commissioner orders student to school. If not: case dismissed</b>	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Have school representative provide updated information about child-either in writing or by a personal appearance</li> <li>2. If an early review hearing is set and schools determine the youth is in compliance they can call to have the Court strike the review.</li> <li>3. If an early review hearing is set and schools determine the youth is still not in compliance, they could/should file a contempt motion,</li> </ol>	

## Spokane County *Models For Change* Truancy Mapping Strategic Opportunities for Reform for Schools

serve it to the youth, and have it docketed for the same day as the early review.	
<b>Step 11: School continues interventions and monitors child attendance</b>	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Assign school or Truancy Specialist to monitor children with truancy petitions.</li> <li>2. We need better ways of following up with students in contract based or internet school.</li> </ol>	
<b>Step 14: If court finds a violation of the court order: Judicial Officer orders student to Juvenile Court sanctions. If not: contempt denied</b>	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Schools could attend by phone conference call.</li> </ol>	