



JJPOC Truancy Subgroup Meeting

OCTOBER 11TH, 2022

Web-Based Meeting – Zoom

THIS MEETING DOES CONTAIN A PRESENTATION- DISCUSSIONS AND UPDATES

Meeting Summary

1. **Discussion reading the increase in truancy referrals and suspension/expulsions this year.**
2. **In depth review of Dr. Cooper's Research: Aggregate Truancy Study (past 5 years)**
 - This study looked at data regarding truancy and chronic absences across different districts in the state.
 - This data was compiled from district-reported data which is released on a database by the State
 - Dr. Cooper has done research on these issues each year since 2017
 - In 2017, she did a Survey of Truancy Intervention Models
 - This looked at 129 different models for dealing with truancy
 - This information was collected from 17 states
 - In 2018, she interviewed another 18 practitioners and found that although truancy was still illegal in some places, it was not being used as a reason to arrest children
 - A lot of the practitioners liked the policies set forth in Connecticut but were concerned about the removal of options in severe cases
 - She also reviewed the legal and educational policies on chronic absence and truancy
 - In 2019, she did a Study of Adult Opinions regarding truancy and the policies surrounding it
 - This study broke down the opinions of parents versus those who were not parents and parents of Juveniles and parents of adult children
 - This study results lead into a discussion regarding the specific feedback of what adults think the school system and related services should do to deal with truancy
 - The link between community behavior and school behavior and what is the school's job to address
 - After seeing these studies there was in depth discussion regarding where children are getting lost and whose job it is to pick them up, especially in cases of homelessness



- In 2022, the Aggregate Truancy Data Review and Report is being released by Dr. Cooper
 - This study found that of the 200 school districts in the state, there was adequate data from 131 to be included in this study
 - The definition of Truancy and that it is a permanent status was discussed
 - The definition of Chronic Absentee and that it is a fluid status was discussed
 - Discussion regarding how truancy is going up over the past five years but absenteeism is staying the same in Connecticut was discussed, addressed that Connecticut is still doing significantly better than other states at this time regarding school attendance
 - This study broke the data into numbers as well as rate to give a more clear picture of the issue
 - A future policy initiative is to get data on truancy out sooner and have more consistent reporting in the state
- 3. **The educational video on Truancy is beginning to be released**
 - The part addressing the permission slip has been removed in order to avoid confusion
 - Discussion regarding how and when to disseminate the video

Next Meeting: November 8th, 2022, 11:00-12:00