

# TRUANCY



## **Pittsfield, MA**

Small urban area

2008 population: 39,000 people

2008/2009 school year; 5,517

# School Preventions

## ● **PBS; Positive Behavioral Support**

- 4 P's = Prompt, Prepared, Polite, Participate
- 3 R's = READY, RESPECTFUL, AND RESPONSIBLE
- THS = Take responsibility, Have respect, Strive for excellence
- 3 R's/ 3 B's = BE RESPECTFUL, BE RESPONSIBLE, BE READY TO LEARN
- ROAR: Respectful, On-Time, Accountable, Resolved.
- MCS = MANNERS, CARING, and SAFETY

# PREVENTIONS

- Promotion and Recognition of Attendance:
  - Homeroom parties
  - Individual student awards; *posting names on web site, certificate, pencil, naming over morning announcements, etc..*
  - PBS ticket recognition
  - Check in, Check out/ “Hello, How are you, Goodbye”.

# What's Truancy

- **Unexcused Absence vs. Excused Absence**
- MA Law, Chapter 76 - *(New as of 2007)*
  - **“Habitually Truant”** is defined as; unexcused absences 8 or more days per quarter (2.5 months/43 days).
  - **“Failure to Send”** is defined as; 7 or more days of unexcused absences in a 6 months period. (fine can be up to \$20 per day after the first 7 days, charged to the parent)

# What can we do?

**MA CHINS Petition = Child In Need of Services.**

- Truant, Runaway, Difficult child
- Probationary period (6months)
- Dept. of Child Services (DCF), temporary custody

# INTERVENTIONS

## HIGH SCHOOL:

1. Attendance Officer
2. Attendance school

## MIDDLE SCHOOL:

1. Attendance Officer

## ELEMENTARY SCHOOL:

1. Principal

## DISTRICT

1. Attendance Officer

# INTERVENTIONS

## ***JUVENILE RESOURCE CENTER (JRC) Truancy Intervention Program (TIP)***

- **Officer**
- **Case manager**
- Phone calls, letters, school meetings, home visits, parent meetings, individual student meetings.

*Operated by; Berkshire County Sheriff's Office*

# SUCCESS

- **2006/2007:** (225 students)
  - High School = 62.53% reduction in unexcused absences
  - Middle School = 65.62%
  - Elementary School = 65.48%***Overall = 64.54***

- 2007/2008:** (671 students)
  - High School = 64.2
  - Middle School = 68.45
  - Elementary School = 61.5***Overall = 64.72***



# SUCCESS

*MA AYP; must be at 92% per school*

- 2005/2006 = **91%**  
(pre-grant year, 6368 students)
- 2006/2007 = **94.4%**  
(Year 1, 6305 students)
- 2007/2008 = **94.6%**  
(Year 2 5532 students)

# RESOURCES

- Check and Connect

[www.ici.umn.edu/checkandconnect](http://www.ici.umn.edu/checkandconnect)

- Tool Kit for Creating Your Own Truancy Reduction Program

[www.ojjdp.ncjrs.gov/publications/truancy\\_toolkit.html](http://www.ojjdp.ncjrs.gov/publications/truancy_toolkit.html).

National Center for School Engagement

<http://www.truancy prevention.org>.