

*** Chronic Absenteeism
and Truancy in Alameda
County:
Implications for Students of Color**

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The Big Picture

Truancy and Chronic Absenteeism are *symptoms* of larger, core problems

- * Poverty
- * Student, parent health issues
- * Homelessness, transportation problems
- * Community violence, trauma



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BIG Strategies

Address core issues through developmental supports to:

- * Mitigate the effects of poverty
- * Connect students with school, and
- * Engage students in learning



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BIG Strategies

Truancy Intervention & Prevention Program (TIPP) Kings County Office of Education

- * **Partnerships:** DA, Behavioral Health, COE
- * **Resources:** Prop 63/ MHSAs funds
- * **Communications:** Publications, convenings



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Effective Practices

Student Needs Review

- * Regular Review of student performance and attendance data
- * Assign staff w/ relationships to follow up
- * Refer to outside agency, social services if needed



ACOE Student Needs Review Panel, 2014



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Push Factors of Truancy

Students are truant *from school when they feel pushed*, alienated, are failing, scared, or are having some kind of bad experience

Address Push Factors through School Climate

- * Ensure that your school is a place where students feel safe, engaged and connected to opportunities to succeed



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Pull Factors of Truancy

Students are truant *to places and activities that pull them away from school* like jobs, family, drugs, hobbies or other things more compelling than school.

Address Pull Factors through relationships supports

- * Connect with the student to Identify core issues and refer to outside services for support (healthcare, social work, counseling, etc.)



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Things to Keep in Mind...

- * **Expect uneven progress**
 - * Patterns are long ingrained
- * **Keep reaching out and “keep the door open”**
- * **Make it easy to come back**
 - * Establish small goals
 - * Provide positive reinforcement



Implications on Educational Outcomes for Students of Color

- * Learning loss is compounded over years
- * Correlation between chronic absenteeism and participation in juvenile justice system



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Resources ...

- * **Every Day Counts Campaign**

http://atschool.alcoda.org/files/everydaycounts_generic_2014.pdf

- * **ACOE Student Needs Review Process**

<https://vimeo.com/110840901>

- * **CA Safe and Supportive Schools: Proactive & Inclusive School Discipline Strategies**

http://californias3.wested.org/resources/S3_WhatWorksBrief11_SchoolDiscipline.pdf



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