

DuPage ROE Services and Supports to Promote Positive School Attendance

To help support our schools, students and families develop positive strategies to promote school attendance and to address truancy and related issues, the DuPage ROE has hired fulltime Behavior Interventionists' and a Clinical Truancy Program Consultant. These individuals will work with the Assistant Regional Superintendent to facilitate programs and services with our schools, community agencies and county departments.

Our ROE truancy staff will target interventions for students and their families when referred to the ROE. Such interventions will include but not be limited to: facilitation of student truancy prevention groups, provision of individual student and family counseling/therapy, advocacy for wrap around support services, direct referral to court for identified chronic truants, and initiation of truancy prevention strategies through staff development and best practices.

Our programs are described in greater detail below, with eligibility criteria, and links to referral forms and processes for each.

Chronic Truancy Interventions

Target Audience: Ages 6-17

Criteria: Identified Chronic Truants – absent without valid cause 5% of previous 180 school days of attendance.

If excessive truancy is an ongoing issue, despite supportive services being offered/provided by the school, a student is to be referred to the Regional Office of Education upon being **absent without valid cause for 5% of the previous 180 regular attendance days.** (chronic truant). Upon receipt of the truancy referral, the ROE will immediately start the process of communication with the student and family regarding their legal responsibilities for daily school attendance, and begin to monitor the case with the school directly. Attendance will be monitored, and other supporting services provided. Either from the ROE direct services (see other programs below), or from community agencies, as appropriate and available. Continued unexcused absences will result in ongoing formal communication to the family from the ROE. Continued chronic truancy will result in a Truancy Hearing to further explore the case and supportive programs/options, or direct referral to the States Attorney, requesting charges of either Truant Minor in Need of Supervision (TMINS) or Educational Neglect.

Counseling/Therapy for At Risk Students and Families

Target Audience: Grades K – 12

Criteria: 5% cumulative unexcused absences, identified family needs, and other at-risk factors (i.e. frequent tardies, declining school performance, increased behavior referrals)

To help support services being provided by the school to families and students that are demonstrating challenges to regular school attendance and placing the child at-risk of becoming a chronic truant, the ROE can make available Individual and Family Counseling/Therapy for referred students and families.

1-3 sessions may be scheduled directly with the family, based on assessment of need. The goal is to empower the student and family with strategies and skills to improve student attendance and to locate resources to provide ongoing support, as needed.

Truancy Group Facilitation – School Site Based

Target Audience: Jr. High/Middle School and High School

Criteria: 5% cumulative unexcused absences, other at risk factors (i.e. frequent tardies, declining school performance, increased behavior referrals)

Schools can request to schedule onsite small group counseling sessions for identified at-risk students. Working with small groups of students (5-8), 1-3 sessions will be scheduled with school administration for ROE Truancy staff to meet with the students to identify those issues placing them at-risk. The session will identify strategies and supports to improve school attendance and performance. Additionally, a session may be scheduled with parents, as needed, to provide additional support.