

ATTENDANCE MEDIATION WORKSHOPS: EVALUATION RESULTS

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Funded by: Mayor's Office for
Education and Children

DESCRIPTION OF THE WORKSHOP

AGENDA

1. Introductions and Workshop Overview (10 min)
2. Legal Aspects of School Attendance - Presented by DPS Attorney (15 min)
3. School Dropout Video (7 min)
4. Individual Parent and Student Discussion Groups: What would help improve Attendance? (30 - 45 min - depending on size of group)
5. Community Resources for Youth and Families - Presented by Family to Family (10 min)
6. Break—10 Minutes
7. Contract Drafting and Review - including a 3 minutes listening exercise (20 minutes)
8. Submit Signed Contracts
9. Evaluation (3 min)

PARTICIPATION BY WORKSHOP

Date of Workshop	Student*	Parent/ Guardian	Other Family Member	Total
November 17	12	12	0	24
November 18	9	9	1	19
December 2	6	5	1	12
February 24	8	8	0	16
March 17	13	7	2	22
Totals	48	41	4	93

*We have outcomes for students in the Nov, Dec and Feb workshops. n=35

RESULTS OF POST WORKSHOP QUESTIONNAIRE

Question	#	Min	Max	Mean	SD
1. How effective was the workshop at addressing the reasons for school absenteeism? 1= Very Effective 4 = Not at all Effective	81	1.00	4.00	1.34	.68
2. Grade Facilitator A with 1= A, 2=B, 3=C, 4=F, 5=F	74	1.00	4.00	1.26	.57
3. Grade Facilitator B with 1= A, 2=B, 3=C, 4=F, 5=F	63	1.00	3.00	1.25	.47
4. How likely will your work here tonight help your (child's) attendance improve? 1 = Very Likely 4=Not at all Likely	80	1.00	4.00	1.46	.67

PARTICIPANT COMMENTS

- ◉ More involvement with the children
- ◉ Do this for every school not just certain ones.
- ◉ Not as long, do more activities.
- ◉ I feel this pilot program was well put together and it being a pilot, everybody did fantastic
- ◉ My thoughts very well. Good job, great speakers, great resources.
- ◉ Make it mandatory
- ◉ Spread the word to bring more parents and help the kids
- ◉ Everything was really good, I hope that as a guardian I can be more involved in events like this
- ◉ Well I think that the counselors would listen more to the students of what they want as a class.
- ◉ Emphasizing more for the kids and parents together
- ◉ I think it's perfect the way it was and maybe more group meetings

STUDENT ATTENDANCE OUTCOMES

- 65% female, 92% Hispanic, & 63% 9th grade, 26% 10th grade
- 69% (24) of students improved their attendance in the 2 weeks that followed the workshop
- The mean attendance rate in the 2 weeks before the workshop was 61% and in the 2 weeks after it was 75%. This is a statistically significant difference ($t_{34} = -3.978, p < .000$).

COMPARING WORKSHOP TO COURT

- 83% of students attended the first school day after the workshop compared to 34% for truancy court.
- 93% of students were still enrolled in school at the time of this writing compared to 34% for truancy court.
- Each Attendance Mediation workshop cost \$1228.15, including child care, food and staff time. This is an average of \$175 per student compared to \$1578.96 per student for truancy court.

NEXT STEPS

- ◉ Determine if DPS would like to replicate this program - explore fidelity issues
- ◉ Explore sustainability ideas (e.g. volunteer attorneys & mediators)
- ◉ Explore how mediation might fit with stipulated agreements and truancy court
- ◉ Explore why middle school students did not show up & how to increase referrals from DPS to community resources
- ◉ More evaluation - need long-term outcomes and a comparison group of workshop students' attendance to the attendance of no-show students