



# Longview Public Schools Truancy Board



Presented by:  
Barry Nusbaum and Kaytie Richards



Please silence and  
put away your  
cell phones.



# The Becca Bill: 22A.225 RCW



- Named after Rebecca Hedman in 1995
- Rebecca had been chronically truant and schools at the time were not obligated to inform her parents of her truancy
- Rebecca had been involved in dangerous activities which led to her death
- The Becca Law now requires children from age 8 to 17 to attend a public school, private school, or to receive home-schooling
- The Becca Bill asks the schools and parents to work together to reduce absenteeism
- The Becca Bill deemed truancy as a civil offense

# Why is your student here?

## A Truancy Petition Was Filed

- By law, schools must file a petition after a student accumulates either 7 unexcused absences in a month or 10 in a school year.
- The school district has filed a petition but student attendance has not improved or they are not currently enrolled.
- The Juvenile Court Clerk assigns a cause number therefore this is a legal document.







## Review of Truancy Process

Step 1: School District files a Petition. Petition is generated as a STAY where the district monitors attendance. If attendance does not improve, the Petition is referred to the Longview Public Schools Truancy Board.

Step 2: When the Petition is referred to the Longview Public Schools Truancy Board, the student and parent are mandated to attend the intervention meeting.

Step 3: If attendance does not improve, there will either be a referral to the Cowlitz County Truancy Project or to court.

Step 4: When attendance improves, the Petition will be dismissed.

# Cowlitz County Truancy Project

**The Truancy Project is a collaboration between Cowlitz County Juvenile Court, Cowlitz County School Districts and Educational Service District 112 (ESD112).**

**The Truancy Project seeks to intervene with truant youth and their families to provide them a positive way to return to school, increase student academic achievement and to keep them from going to court. Truancy Project is here to HELP identify barriers and link families with the appropriate resources needed.**

EDUCATIONAL  
SERVICE DISTRICT **112**





# Cowlitz County Truancy Project

EDUCATIONAL  
SERVICE DISTRICT



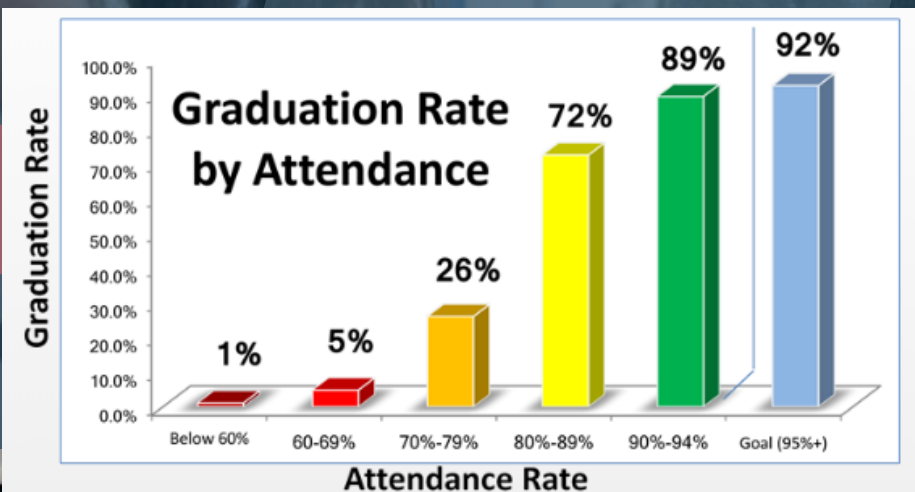
## Case Management

- Truancy Specialist checks in regularly with students and families to follow-up with the educational plan. This consists of school visits, phone calls, emails, letters and home visits.
- Truancy Specialist collaborates with school staff and community resources.
- Truancy Specialist will help connect students to educational opportunities and alternative educational options if needed.

We want you to call us before we call you. If we call you first, that means we're working harder for your child's success. You are the most important person in your child's life, no matter what age.

# Why is attendance so important?

- Your child's attendance should be a priority for their future.
- Make it an expectation instead of a choice.
- Everyday your student is in school, they are learning something. It is not just beneficial for academic success, but life skills as well.



A student who is at a 92% attendance rate throughout their K-12 years will have missed one **1 Year** of school.

Typically, students with attendance rates lower than 80% (more than 36 days absent) have a GPA at least a letter grade below their peers, are **14 times** more likely to drop out of school, and only have about a 25% chance of graduating.





## Truancy Board Members

- A board is composed of trained members from the school, court and local community resources in which the child attends school.
- The purpose is to provide a supportive environment where a youth and family can openly discuss the reasons behind the child's absences.
- Board members are here to provide fresh and creative ideas for the family to improve attendance.
- All board members have signed a confidentiality agreement.



An agreement will be signed by the board members, student, and parent to improve attendance and school success. This agreement will be used as a legal document for court, if the student/parent fails to comply with improving attendance.

# What happens next?

**If the student returns to school and has no more absences, we have met our goal and the petition will be dismissed.**

---

**If the student does not return to school, continues to have unexcused absences after Truancy Board/during case management, the petition will be moved on to the court system and a request for an Order To Attend will be made.**



# Truancy Court

- **Students that continue to be non-compliant (continue to be absent or not enrolled in school) will be referred back to Truancy Court.**
- **The family will be legally served with a petition and court date.**
- **Order to Attend is signed, which mandates that the student attends school.**
- **The order may remain in effect until the youth is 18 years of age, graduates from high school, or achieves a GED.**
- **Non-compliance with the Order may result in contempt sanctions, detention time, work crew or papers assigned by the judge.**

**Truancy is a civil case**





# Questions?