



Boys & Girls Club of the Redwoods

Attendance Council Overview

Description

The Attendance Council is a support group that is adult & teen facilitated but peer led; it is a place where youth can leverage their experience to help pull back others from chronic school absenteeism and school disengagement by providing extra support. The process is a supportive healing one with directives but not punishments.

We are an outside provider for MTSS Tier II support partnered with the school. If the student does not improve their school attendance or stops participating, then the youth's case is referred back to the school for additional interventions/supports.

Purpose and Goals

- Increase school attendance and Ed Code compliance. Aim for regular attendance (less than 10% absences a year)
- By the end of the program, see a measurable improvement or maintain 90% attendance with no cuts or tardies
- Build relationships with student, teachers & staff
- Build relationships with parents and community
- Youth can set achievable goals and see some success
- Allow school-disengaged youth to be actively involved in making a positive impact on their own and each other's success
- Peers help with the process of getting assignments completed
- Discover and break down barriers to attendance
- Keep youth out of trouble, off the streets, and interacting with caring adults and peers

Target Population

Teen Court's Attendance Council is geared towards students who are in the MTSS Tier II level of school attendance challenges. School will determine the best method for screening appropriate cases to refer, and create incentives for participation, as needed.

OVERVIEW of Attendance Council

- A 4-week cohort of 5 middle school youth and 5 high school teens struggling with school attendance meet as a group along with Teen Court volunteers as peer helpers
- Youth participates for 4 weeks, with opportunity to continue to attend and volunteer to help others
- 7-12 teens at an attendance council
- Held every week for 1 or 1 ½ hours (typically Wednesdays 4:15-5:45 pm)
- Held virtually over Zoom
- School representative may participate in a supportive role
- Mentor from the community serves as a caring adult while also helping the youth understand the larger ramifications of ongoing chronic absenteeism issues.
- Each session would have a focus on a few teen's cases, but each youth attending would be subsequently checking-in on their progress as well. A mutual sharing.
- Ideally an action plan would be drafted at the initial council for the youth to work towards completing. If unable to craft a full action plan, youth will set tiny goals each week. With the objective of each youth having an action plan by the end of the 4 sessions.
- This process will serve as an early intervention, where youth can set achievable goals and see some success
- A place to attempt to break the spiral of disengagement
- This is a motivating support group. A process that includes directives, not punishments
- Teens come up with incentives, explore barriers, and markers for success
- At EHS, if a youth completes Attendance Council and has a week of zero absences/cuts/tardies, then they will zero out their minutes.

Stages

- TC receives a case
- Phone chat with Teen first. Then second, have phone chat with parent (no in-person intake)
- Youth attends 4 sessions
- At initial virtual session, action plan crafted
- After initial session, ongoing virtual check-in sessions for 3 weeks
- We communicate with family and provide case management for duration of case
- We email school with regular updates on their participation
- Completion of action plan/graduation/certificate
- Opportunity to continue to attend and volunteer to help others