

Truancy

Concern

Missed school time, characterized by unexcused absences, tardiness, sleeping or deliberately not paying attention during class.

Description

Students stay away from school for a variety of reasons: boredom, academic failure, conflict with teachers, peer rejection, mental health, substance abuse and cultural alienation are the most common. Often these factors operate in tandem with each other.

The best intervention for strengthening the connection to school is the one that is most responsive to each individual student's personal cause for disconnect.

The suggested interventions that follow are grouped into categories based on the five above named factors. Substance abuse is included as an optional single topic. A more complete training plan is available for those students for whom drugs and alcohol are the primary concern in Ripple Effects Targeted Prevention Manual.

Goals of intervention - students will:

- Develop an understanding of how learning styles, learning disabilities, and creativity affect boredom, frustration and the learning experience
- Develop an understanding of the importance of goals and study habits to school success
- Develop social skills for connecting with peers
- Develop skills for resolving conflict with teachers, dealing with criticism, making complaints, and showing respect
- Develop an appreciation for one's own culture and the culture of others as it relates to the educational experience

A suggested scope and sequence - Teens

Academic failure

Learning styles
Goals
Creativity
Learning disability
Bored
Frustration
Discouraged
Failure
Expectations
Truancy
Curiosity
Mindset

Conflict with teacher

Conflict with teachers
Talking back
Conflict - resolving
Criticism - dealing with
Problem solving
Authority - dealing with
Authority - defying

Peer rejection

Temperament
Friends
Left out
Rejected
Alone
Communicating feelings
Cliques
Joining a group
Communication skills
Conversations
Compliments - giving
Humor
Making space
Asking questions
Body language
Paraphrasing
Helping others
Connectedness
Community

Cultural conflict, insensitivity or irrelevance

Background - community
Diversity
Ethnic pride
Immigrant
Discrimination
English language learner (ELL)
Sense of place
Values - social

Personal

Substance abuse
Money - not enough
Parents - not caring for you
Background - family
Feel powerless
Risk and protection