

## May 6

### Evaluation of Let's End Truancy (L.E.T.) program, notes

San Bernardino's District Attorney's Office implemented this project along with other professionals in the area in order to address the prevalence of truanancies.

Summary of approaches/major points made to audiences/students:

- Truancy can be a "gateway" to bigger problems down the road
- Educate parents on seriousness of truancy, its major effects on others, providing the gift of education to children, working together is best, emphasizing care about kids
- Truanancies are putting kids at risk of other things: substance abuse, gangs, violence
- Several agencies exist which work together to stop truancy
- Various other reasons why children should be in school-
- The actual laws which exist to address truanancies
- The process, from the first letter, to the DA and probation department involvement, fines, community service hours, suspended driving privileges, probation
- How to help your child: with actual illnesses
- Long-term why to stay in school-: better futures

#### Strengths:

- successfully explaining truancy and its major effects in an understandable way
- visual aid/pamphlets for individuals to take home/share with others
- drawing logical connections amongst how truancy can be connected to other negatives, such as substance abuse, early dropout, etc.
- highlighted on the need for inter-agency collaboration
- focused on the long-term benefits of good attendance
- educated about the laws around truanancies
- provided content in Spanish

#### Areas of Growth:

- too strong of an emphasis on punishment, as opposed to addressing the social-emotional factors of the student
- distribution of information could improve (ex: dispersing pamphlets to more parents)
- lacked in providing several resources to help address other needs which might be present and influencing amount of truanancies: such as financial, mental health, etc.
- further brainstorming schools to visit, recognizing broader need areas
- sharing information with other cities/DA's offices