

YORK COUNTY
TRUANCY PREVENTION
INITIATIVE



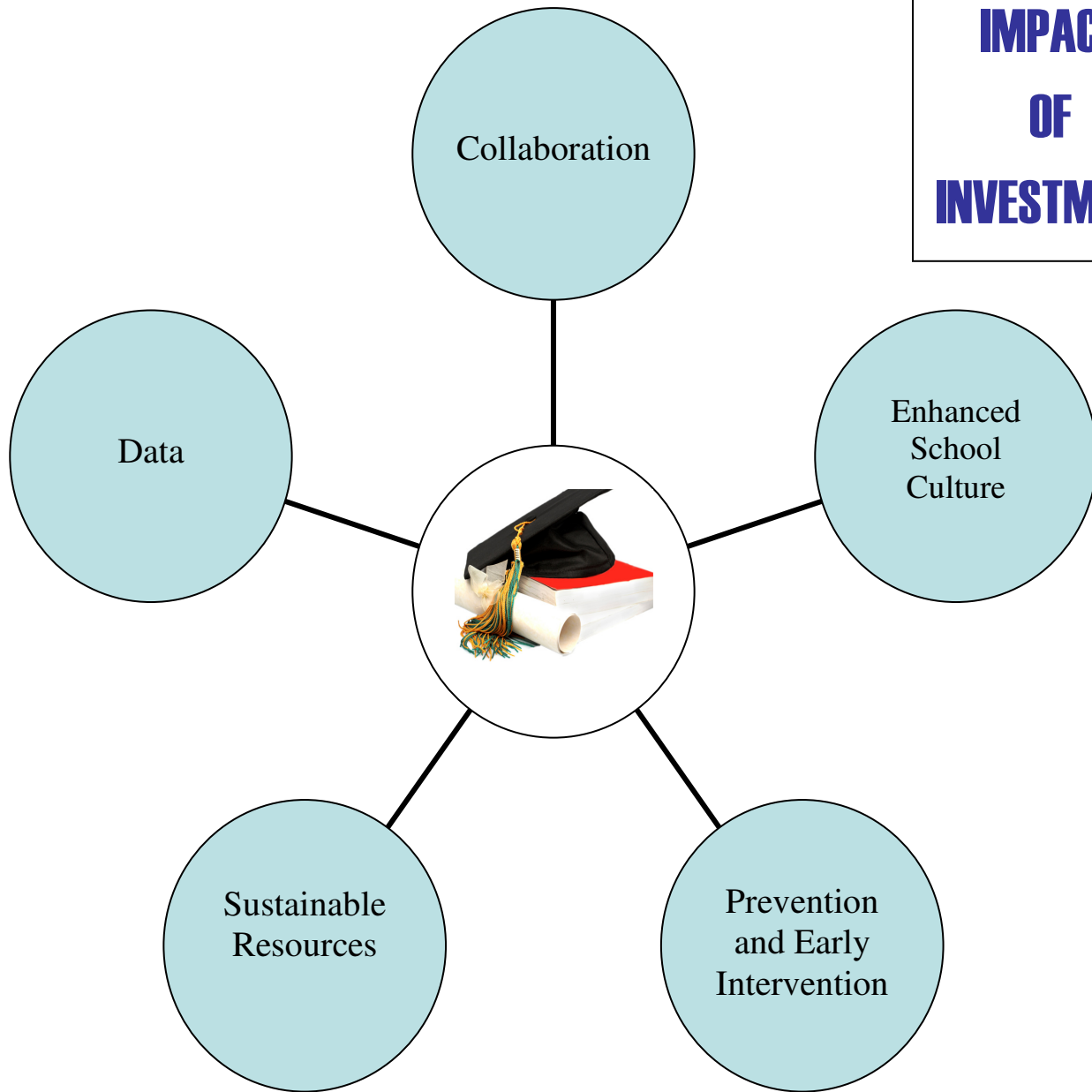
Blueprint for Change 2011

“Truancy has been labeled one of the top ten major problems in this country’s schools, negatively affecting the future of our youth. Excessive unexcused absences are a first indicator that a child is giving up and losing his way. Unfortunately the lack of direction often leads to the Juvenile Justice System or to one who is disadvantaged in becoming a productive citizen.”

- The Honorable Judge John C. Uhler, York County



**THE
IMPACT
OF
INVESTMENT**



These five areas are the five core components found in the Pennsylvania Supreme Court's State Roundtable Truancy Workgroup Report: *Truancy: A Call to Action Report, May 2010. Report and Recommendations to the PA State Roundtable* www.ocfpcourts.us/about-ocfc/truancy.

The mission of the York County Truancy Prevention Initiative is to reduce the truant population in York County by establishing a protocol for improved communication, instituting a consistent response to this issue, and initiating interventions.



Developed by the York County Truancy Prevention Initiative Executive Committee using input from the Community gathered at the York County Truancy Summit

Education and Engagement of Schools

Establish a countywide mindset that encourages perfect attendance, supports a reliable and consistent response to truancy, prioritizes students' connection to their school, and engages families

- Establish one countywide definition and protocol for truancy
- Advocate for adherence to one countywide definition and protocol for truancy
- Involve and educate parents

Interventions

Truancy and Dropout: Implement specific strategies with measureable outcomes targeting prevention, early identification and intervention

- Establish mentoring resources
- Establish alternatives to fines
- Implement dropout prevention strategies

Outreach & Collaboration with the Community

Work with community partners and stakeholders to share the accountability and responsibility for truancy

- Develop relationships with targeted businesses
- Develop relationships with the medical community
- Establish an internet presence

Outcomes

Track truancy data and program outcomes and share information with stakeholders to make informed decisions

- Establish data metrics and methodology with specific targets
- Measure the data
- Report the data

Sustainability

Build sustainable funding bases and allocate resources based on data-informed decisions and partnerships that maximize efficiencies

- Program structure
- Outreach
- Establish the Truancy Prevention Initiative as the "go to" initiative in Pennsylvania



Executive Committee

Judge John C. Uhler, Chair, *Court of Common Pleas*
Karyn Brown, *Spring Grove School District*
Dr. Robert Fawcett, *York Hospital/Wellspring*
Judge Ronald Haskell, *York City Magisterial District Judge*
Brandon Hufnagel, *York City School District*
Beverly Mackereth, *York County Human Services Department*
Judge Barbara Nixon, *York City Magisterial District Judge*
Jill Platts, *Southern York School District*
Tom Shorb, *York County Bar Foundation*
Carolyn Steinhauser, *York County Bar Foundation*
Stanley Weinstein, *Dallastown School District*
Robert Woods, *United Way of York County*



THE IMPACT OF INACTION

- During the 2008-2009 school year, roughly 155,000 or 8.6% of Pennsylvania students in grades K-12 had six or more unexcused absences.
- During the 2008-2009 school year, 20% of York County's ninth graders were habitually truant.
- Over the past 10 years, 6,429 students dropped out of York County schools, an average of four children every school day.
- Students who drop out of school are eight times as likely to be in prison – 41% of inmates in York County prison do not have a high school diploma.
- The cost to incarcerate a York County resident is approximately three times the cost to educate them - \$23,123 versus \$7,835.

Data taken from the Stay In School Initiative Report to the Community, United Way of York County and YorkCounts www.unitedway-york.org; the Pennsylvania Supreme Court's State Roundtable Truancy Workgroup Report: *Truancy: A Call to Action Report, May 2010. Report and Recommendations to the PA State Roundtable* (www.ocfpcourts.us/about-ocfc/truancy); and the Pennsylvania Department of Education.

The York County Truancy Prevention Initiative
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United Way of York County and York County Communities That Care

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