



York County, PA Truancy Task Force

Webinar Link: <https://iu.zoom.us/j/3175292963>

Presenter: **Dr. Carolyn Gentle-Genitty – cgentleg@iu.edu**

Webinar: United Way of York County PA

Topic: **Absenteeism: Update on recent research and strategies**

Time: Apr 18, 2019 12:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

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United Way of York County



Absenteeism

Update on recent research and strategies to improve school attendance

Carolyn Gentle-Genitty PhD
cgentleg@iu.edu

INDIANA UNIVERSITY

AGENDA

(Questions taken throughout)

- **Culture of School around importance of attendance**
- **Typical factors tracked for attendance**
- **Discrepancies in what is tracked and use**
- **Absenteeism- SAP Types (school refusal, truancy, school withdrawal and school exclusion)**
- **Article: Differentiation**

Context

What we know?



October 16-18, 2019 Oslo, Norway

Definitions

School Refusal

- Emotion related
- Severe difficulty attending school
- Emotional upset (fear, depression, feeling ill)
- @ home with parent knowledge
- Absence of antisocial disorders

Truancy

- Unwarranted absence from school
- Away from school
- Concealed
- Parentally condoned
- Some antisocial behavior

School Withdrawal

- Parents deliberately withdrawing child from school because of own needs
- Parental irresponsibility
- Parental knowledge
- Some behavioral concerns

School Exclusion

- Problematic absenteeism that stems from school-based decision making
- Use of disciplinary measures (expulsion, suspension etc.)
- Inability to accommodate child needs
- performance based requirements

Heyne et al., Differentiation Between School Attendance Problems: Why and How? Cognitive and Behavioral Practice (2018), <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.cbpra.2018.03.006>



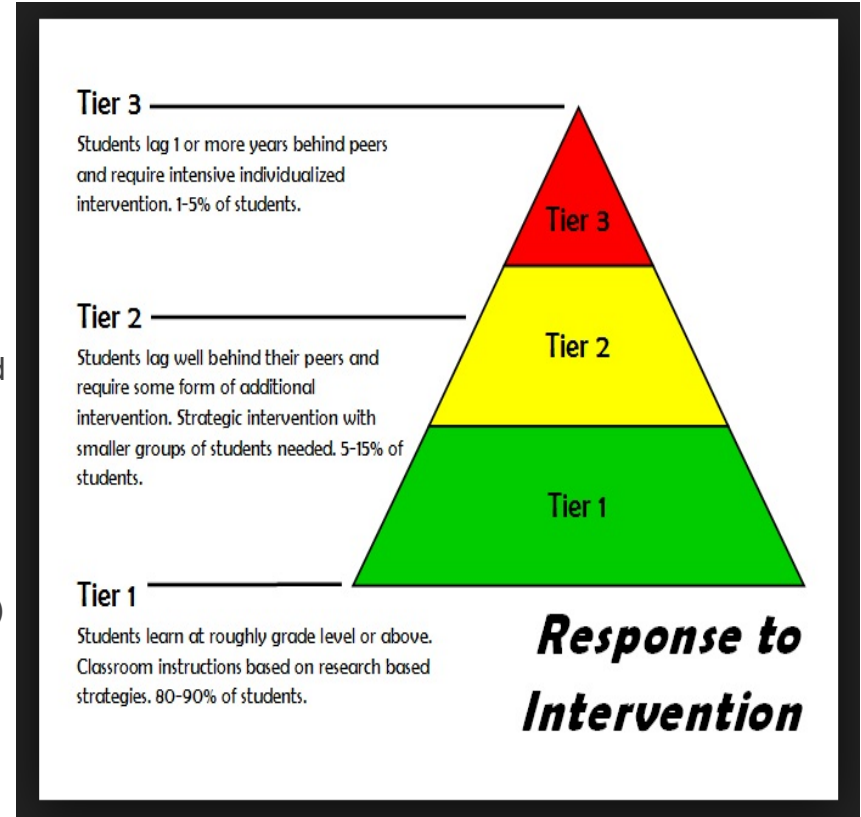
Absenteeism - Tracking

- Shows care with immediate action
- Strategic method of collecting daily period data
- Patterns of Student Behavior
- Connecting to home and school collisions
- Proactive responses and supports
- Plan for interventions and notifications
- Teacher engagement and classroom modifications

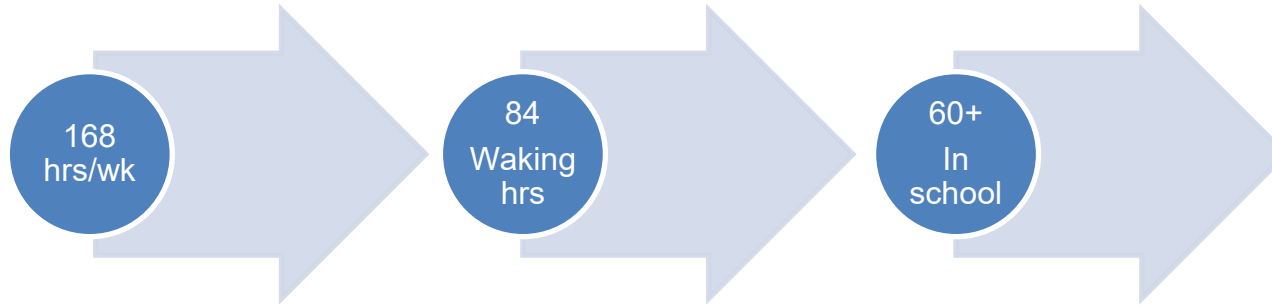


What must be done

- **Know our values and outcomes**
 - Are we interested in presence or absence? If presence why are all our efforts on absence?
- **Operationalization Attendance problems –**
 - Excused from unexcused – can we establish different support or consequences?
 - In-school and out of school suspension are they counted as absences?
- **Accuracy of data?**
 - Who verifies, shared with whom? What action is taken?
 - Can a tiered approach to absenteeism be used (Touchpoint = Skipped class, tardiness, half day missed)
 - **Tier 1** – School-wide interventions, parent notification and continued monitoring)
 - **Tier 2**- Individualized intervention and continued monitoring
 - **Tier 3** – Intensified Intervention and continued monitoring?



What we know



School – Child’s sphere of influence = punished for lack engagement

Unintended Consequences

- 1) School shootings – Common but Should not change engagement
- 2) Homelessness
- 3) School Safety Concerns/Mental Health



Role of Teacher

- Teachers track attendance daily
- Collaborated research with undergraduate scholars
- Findings: glitches in attendance system, most skipped classes, reasons why students may have skipped
- Patterns of students who regularly skipped class
- Volunteered time





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*Thank
You*

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