



## Woodland School District 2008-09 Truancy Project Summary

### District Liaisons:

Our appreciation to Christine Kruse, Julie Arndt and Carol Smith who handle the school district's truancy process.

### Community Truancy Board Members:

Volunteers Karen Branscom, Betsy Berndt and Lacey Cairns meet with truant students and families up to five times a year.

### Truancy Project Goals, Description and Participation:

Educational Service District 112 Truancy Project is a cooperative program with the Cowlitz County Juvenile Court and all six Cowlitz County school districts to ensure the youth of our community comply with the Washington state school attendance law (known as the BECCA Law). By design, the program is not a punitive court process or incarceration. Starting with a family orientation, the Truancy Project works to get students back in school and re-engaged in positive education outcomes, while assisting families to make school attendance a priority. The Community Truancy Board, made up of local volunteers, provide one more guiding influence to youth to encourage their return to school and not the juvenile court system.

**Due to a Washington state Court of Appeals ruling, Cowlitz County schools did not file truancy petitions, or dismiss petitions on students making progress in attending school, for several months this school year. While this resulted in a fewer number of students served than last year, many youth that returned to school and are making progress will be exited after the end of the school year.**

The funding for the three-year old project was provided by Cowlitz County Juvenile Court and the final year of a three-year grant from the Governor's Juvenile Justice Advisory Committee to cover intensive case management and Community Truancy Boards.

**Woodland School District students served: 11** (as of May 15)

<i>Youth returned to school:</i>	<i>Youth returned to court:</i>	<i>Youth maintaining:</i>
2	0	5

### ESD 112 Contacts:

Gail Spolar, ESD 112 Workforce and Truancy Program Director  
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**EDUCATIONAL  
SERVICE  
DISTRICT 112**

**MEMO OF UNDERSTANDING  
regarding  
TRUANCY PROGRAM SERVICES**

Provided by  
EDUCATIONAL SERVICE DISTRICT NO 112  
2500 NE 65<sup>th</sup> Avenue  
Vancouver, WA 98991-6812

For  
WOODLAND SCHOOL DISTRICT  
800 Third Street  
Woodland, WA 98674

1. **Purpose.** ESD 112 Truancy Project is a cooperative program with Cowlitz County Juvenile Court and the six Cowlitz County school districts to ensure the youth of our community comply with the Washington state school attendance law (BECCA law). This Memo of Understanding between Educational Service District No. 112 (the "ESD") and Woodland School District (the "District") for the 2009-2010 school year is made for the purpose of defining services the Truancy Project provides schools and students of the District.
2. **Benefits.** The Truancy program provides mentoring, tutoring, and community resource referrals to District students who continue to be truant despite court order to attend school, valued at approximately \$1,700. This allows the District to keep those students enrolled and to receive their Basic Education Allocation.
3. **Term.** The initial term for the Understanding shall be from *September 1, 2009 to August 31, 2010.*
4. **Responsibilities of the ESD.** Provide Truancy Program services to truant students of the District. Such services may be subject to change pursuant to written agreement between ESD 112 and the District.
  - 4.1 Provide ESD 112 staff to coordinate meetings, conduct an annual intake with truants and write up contract recommendations for the truant student.
  - 4.2 Provide liaison between the District and Cowlitz County Juvenile Court and Prosecutor's Office to administer a truancy intervention effort, providing mentoring, tutoring, and community resource referrals.
  - 4.3 Provide an average of \$1,700 in truancy support.
5. **Responsibilities of the District.**
  - 5.1 Assign a District liaison to the Community Truancy Board, who can make decisions regarding the truant's school program.
  - 5.2 Refer students, who continue to be truant despite court order to attend school, to the Truancy Project.
  - 5.3 Provide advisory support to assist ESD Truancy Project staff with program development and direction.
6. **Opportunity Without Discrimination.** The ESD and the District agree to comply with all applicable state and federal rules and regulations which prohibit discrimination on the basis of race, color, creed, religion, national origin, age, families with children, sex, marital status, sexual orientation, physical, sensory or mental disabilities, or use of a trained guide dog or service animal. Inquiries regarding compliance and/or grievance procedures for the ESD may be directed to the ESD at its address above.

**IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the District and the ESD have executed this Agreement on the date and year indicated below.**

**EDUCATIONAL SERVICE DISTRICT NO. 112**

by: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**WOODLAND SCHOOL DISTRICT**

by: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**PLEASE SIGN, DATE, AND RETURN BOTH COPIES OF THIS AGREEMENT TO:**

Children, Youth & Family Services  
Educational Service District 112  
2500 NE 65<sup>th</sup> Avenue  
Vancouver WA 98661-6812

A countersigned copy will be returned to you.