



OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

**Education, Truancy, Dropout & Literacy
Truancy Workgroup Meeting
01/22/08**

This set of handouts contains information that was distributed at the Truancy Workgroup meeting of the Education, Truancy, Dropout and Literacy Subcommittee on January 22, 2008 and includes the following item:

- Memo from Ed Pratt-Dannals dated 4/2/2007 re: Response to DCSB member request regarding truancy centers (request made by Brenda Priestly Jackson)

MEMORANDUM

TO: Duval County School Board

FROM: Ed Pratt-Dannals, Chief Academic Officer

SUBJECT: *RESPONSE TO BOARD MEMBER REQUEST 2007-137* Ed Pratt-Dannals
REGARDING TRUANCY CENTERS (Brenda Priestly Jackson)

DATE: April 2, 2007

The following information is provided in response to the request referenced above. This information also has been entered into the Board Member's Tracking System.

Concern Listed in Board Member's Tracking System:

Board Member Priestly Jackson is requesting the following information regarding the April 3, 2007, Curriculum Item 13 - Public Service Grant for Truancy:

*What is the process for measuring the success of our truancy centers? How many students are served at each center?

She would like to have this information by 12:00 pm on April 3, 2007. A copy of her e-mail request is attached to the BMR assignment e-mail.

Response:

- **What is the process for measuring the success of our truancy centers?**

Duval County Public Schools Truancy Centers operate as a partnership with the City of Jacksonville and the Jacksonville Sheriff's Office. Fiscal management of the truancy centers was transferred to Duval County Public Schools during October, 2005. The four sites began operating January 7, 2006.

Truant students are transported by law enforcement officers or DCPS truant officers to the nearest truancy center. At the truancy center, students receive counseling for social, emotional, medical, and/or behavior issues that may contribute to the absence from school. The student remains at the center until a parent/guardian comes to the truancy center. At that time, the parent or guardian is required to meet with the social worker to develop a needs assessment to determine the need for support services. When appropriate, the social worker will refer the student to other agencies for on-going counseling or other services. Students are monitored 30, 60, and 90 days after initial contact.

The success of the program is measured by the short-term program goal objectives outlined in the agreement with the City of Jacksonville related to recidivism rate and improved attendance.

Short-term truancy center objectives:

| <u>Description</u> | <u>2005/06</u> | <u>Aug/Feb 2006/07</u> |
|---|----------------|----------------------------|
| The recidivism rate among truants serviced by the truancy centers will not exceed 15% | 5.7% | 8% |
| At least 60% of the students served in the truancy center will have no more than 10 unexcused absences during a 90-calendar day period following initial intervention | 87% | Data not available yet |

- **How many students are served at each center?**

Number of Students Served at the Truancy Centers

| Year | Southside | Northside | Beaches | Westside | Total Students | Monthly Average |
|--|------------------|------------------|----------------|-----------------|-----------------------|------------------------|
| District Operated Centers August '06-Feb. '07 (7 months) | 122 | 290 | 587 | 90 | 1087 | 155.3 |
| District Operated Centers Jan. '06 – May '06 (5 months) | 113 | 143 | 286 | 73 | 613 | 122.6 |
| City Operated Centers 2004-05 (10 months) | 383 | 407 | 72 | 119 | 981 | 98.1 |
| City Operated Centers 2003-004 (10 months) | 405 | 427 | 246 | 113 | 1078 | 107.8 |
| City Operated Centers 2002-03 (10 months) | 439 | 517 | 271 | ----- | 1127 | 112.7 |

If you have any further questions, please contact me at your earliest convenience.

EPD:sm

c: Joseph Wise
Amy Lingren
Michellea Graves
Board Office