Truancy: A Call to Action

❖ Recommendations ❖

Recommendation 1 ● Demonstrate Effective Collaboration Efforts Including Sharing the Accountability and Responsibility for Truancy

1.1 Utilize the local children's roundtable as the vehicle to form a community truancy coalition.

1.2 Identify multi-system stakeholders in an effort to reduce truancy.

1.3 Cultivate positive working relationships among stakeholders so they can effectively communicate across systems.

1.4 Adopt a collective strategy to address truancy which includes a combination of best practices working together to combat truancy.

1.5 Develop ongoing opportunities for cross-training of stakeholders.

Recommendation 2 ● Create an Educational Culture/ Climate that Prioritizes Students' Connection to their School and Engages Families

2.1 Create an environment where students and their families feel safe, welcome, wanted and connected to their educational environment.

2.2 Prioritize the issue of truancy in schools.

2.3 Engage Parents as a necessary and valued partner.

2.4 Develop appropriate reentry and reintegration strategies for truant and other absent youth.

2.5 Develop incentives and sanctions along a continuum when addressing truancy with an emphasis on encouraging a student to continue their education.

2.6 Meaningfully and proactively engage the larger community to create and sustain a positive school climate.

Recommendation 3 ● Implement Specific Strategies with Measurable Outcomes Targeting Prevention, Early Identification and Intervention

3.1 Identify truant children and engage families as early as possible.

3.2 Develop a Truancy Elimination Plan immediately following the 3rd unlawful absence.

3.3 Develop a continuum of timely responses.

3.4 Examine truancy within the context of the "whole child".

Recommendation 4 ● Track Truancy Data and Program Outcomes and Share Information with Stakeholders

4.1 Identify critical data to be collected.

4.2 Determine how attendance and truancy data will be collected, maintained, shared and disseminated.

4.3 Employ creative strategies to share data.

4.4 Use data to educate, inform and influence the community.

Recommendation 5 ● Build Sustainable Funding Bases and Allocate Resources Based on Data Informed Decisions and Partnerships that Maximize Efficiencies

5.1 Promote a true collaborative effort by deciding what resources are available and combining those resources to maximize the impact of federal, state and local dollars.

5.2 Engage local businesses, community, civic organizations, non-profit organizations, universities and the faith based community to identify both fiscal and in-kind resources.

5.3 Research potential grant funding opportunities with local and national foundations.

5.4 Integrate truancy prevention into existing funding streams to include the needs based plan and budgeting process, integrated children's services planning, Communities That Care and other initiatives.

5.5 Evaluate local truancy programs to determine effectiveness.

❖ Truancy: A Call to Action ❖

1. **Read the Report**—"Truancy a Call to Action" Report and Recommendations to the Pennsylvania State Roundtable.

2. **Review your County's School Truancy Data—** Each county will be sent an electronic copy of their truancy data.

3. **Bring the Information back to the Local Children's Roundtable—** At your next Local Children's Roundtable, share the report and your data.

4. **Start identifying Community Stakeholders who may be interested in discussing Truancy Issues—** Based on the report, your data and local discussions, determine if truancy should be a Local Children's Roundtable priority. Identify other groups already addressing the issue and those needing to be involved.

5. **Begin a Dialogue with Stakeholders—** Explore what is being done to address the issue of truancy in your community, what programs already exist, if they work, and what more needs to be done.