

GREEN COUNTY TRUANCY DIVERSION PROGRAM

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DEMOGRAPHICS OF COUNTY

- 12 different school districts – 20 total schools
- Total population of the county is approx. 37,000 people with 22% being under 18 years old
- Majority of the population is White with a variety of minorities making up the rest
 - Increased amount of Spanish speaking families

DEMOGRAPHICS OF PROGRAM

- 21 students in the program
 - 16 boys and 5 girls
 - 5 of the students are currently working with Youth Justice
 - Students are from a variety of schools, but Monroe has the majority of the students we work with (Monroe is the largest district in our county)
- 7 students in Dollar for Days program

OVERVIEW OF PROGRAM

- Voluntary program
- School meetings
- Mentoring
- Court
 - Dollar for Days program
- Used to help reduce the amount of habitual truancy referrals and truancy of students in general
 - Transportation
 - Incentives
 - Offer educational time at our office

AUGUST MEETINGS

- Email schools to set up a meeting before school starts
 - Talk about time/date/location of monthly meeting
 - Monroe Middle and High School are bi-monthly due to size
 - Pick a reoccurring date
 - Talk about “red flag” families/students
 - Discuss letters (5 days, 7 days, and 10 days)
 - Discuss when it is appropriate for us to intervene (7 days? 10 days? 15 days?)
 - Reminder of services offered
 - Give more referrals & brochures

GREEN COUNTY HUMAN SERVICES

PLEASANT VIEW COMPLEX

N3152 State Road 81
Monroe, WI 53566-9397
PHONE (608) 328 - 9393
FAX (608) 325 - 2136
TTY (608) 328-9463

October 8, 2020

██████████

██████████ has been on the Truancy Diversion Program since September 11, 2018. Since that time ██████████ has made gradual progress while on the program. Most recently, when ██████████ started High School, she has excelled tremendously. She is attending all of her classes virtually and has amazing grades.

Due to ██████████ doing such an incredible job I am graduating her from the Truancy Diversion Program. She has matured and shown that she can be independent with her schooling and make appropriate choices.

Great job ██████████! I know you will continue to do great and I wish you luck in your future endeavors.

Sincerely,



Cassie Rugg

Truancy Coordinator
Children, Youth, and Families Unit
608-328-9315

www.gchsd.org



Monroe Middle School Attendance Notice

Student: ██████████
Grade: 08

01/03/2024

ABSENCES	YTD
Total Number of School Days	71
Number of Days Absent	42
Percentage of Days Absent	59.16%

Parent/Guardian OC: ██████████

Our records indicate your child has missed multiple classes and/or days. Attendance is a crucial element of a student's educational success. We look forward to building a partnership with you, your child, and school staff to ensure this success.

This letter is to inform you **that your child has 7 excused absences** (class periods/half or whole days) this academic school year. As you know, regular school attendance is crucial to academic success. State law authorizes 10 days of excused absences per parent request per year. After 10 excused absences, a doctor's note must be provided.

In a proactive effort to improve attendance, the School District of Monroe has partnered with the Green County Truancy Diversion Program to collaborate with families on increasing school attendance through various free, voluntary opportunities. This program has a successful track record throughout the county in improving student attendance.

I will be contacting you about the program and to connect you with Cassandra Rugg, GCHS Truancy Coordinator if your student's attendance does not improve in the near future.

Sincerely,



Lindsay Dahmen
MMS Associate Principal
lindsaydahmen@monroek12.wi.us
608-328-7270

Cassandra Rugg
Truancy Coordinator
Green County Human Services
crugg@gchsd.org
608-328-9393

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October 5th, 2023

To the parent(s) of ██████████

The Green County Truancy Diversion Program and New Glarus School High School meet monthly for truancy meetings. ██████████ attendance was discussed at our meeting and I wanted to reach out to you as a courtesy to inform you of where your child(s) school attendance is at and inform you of the potential consequences should ██████████ continue to accumulate absences and tardys from school. ██████████ currently has 10+ absences and it seems to be accumulating. Moving forward a doctor's note will be required for all absences and avoid receiving a truancy citation.

Wisconsin State Statute 118.16 School attendance enforcement.

(e) "Truancy" means *any absence of part or all of one or more days from school during which the school attendance officer, principal or teacher has not been notified of the legal cause of such absence by the parent or guardian of the absent pupil, and also means intermittent attendance carried on for the purpose of defeating the intent of s. 118.15.*

Wisconsin State Statute 118.15 Compulsory school attendance.

(3) (a) Any child who is excused by the school board because the child is temporarily not in proper physical or mental condition to attend a school program but who can be expected to return to a school program upon termination or abatement of the illness or condition. *The school attendance officer may request the parent or guardian of the child to obtain a written statement from a licensed physician, naturopathic doctor, dentist, chiropractor, optometrist, psychologist, physician assistant, or nurse practitioner, as defined in s. 255.06 (1) (d), or certified advanced practice nurse prescriber or Christian Science practitioner living and residing in this state, who is listed in the Christian Science Journal, as sufficient proof of the physical or mental condition of the child. An excuse under this paragraph shall be in writing and shall state the time period for which it is valid, not to exceed 30 days.*

(c) Any child excused in writing by his or her parent or guardian before the absence. The school board shall require a child excused under this paragraph to complete any course work missed during the absence. **A child may not be excused for more than 10 days in a school year under this paragraph.**

uld this continue, you and/or ██████████ will be given a truancy citation which starts at \$200.50 and increases. You can be given multiple citations per year. Contributing to truancy citations are more expensive.

I have enclosed a brochure about the Truancy Diversion Program here in Green County. The Green County Truancy Diversion Program is designed to be proactive and preventative and assist families when truancy becomes a concern. We understand that there can be many factors that contribute to truancy. The Green County Truancy Diversion program is a free and voluntary program available to Green County families who feel they need some extra support in improving the attendance of their child(ren). I have also enclosed a brochure explaining our program. If you feel the program can be of help please do not hesitate to reach out. We are here to support our Green County families.

If you have any questions, please contact me at 608-426-1589. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Cassandra (Cassie) Rugg
Truancy Coordinator
Truancy Diversion Program
Green County Human Services

CC: New Glarus School District
New Glarus Police Department

SCHOOL MEETINGS THROUGHOUT THE YEAR

- Meet monthly
- Check in on “red flag” families/students
- Talk about new families/students with increase number of truant days
- Determine next steps
 - Monitor
 - Letters
 - Calls
 - Parent meetings

PARENT/SCHOOL MEETINGS

- Set up by school and parents
- Meet to discuss factors that lead to the number of absences
- Try to problem solve to help improve attendance
 - Transportation
 - Mental health
 - AODA
 - Lack of interest
 - Other reasons
- Sign up for the program and use services or solve within the home
 - Continue to monitor

CONTINUED COMMUNICATION

- Reach out to schools between meetings
- Always keep the school in the loop about students in program
- Use of school attendance spreadsheets
- Attendance reports for Dollar for Days students
- Schools send referrals of students who are an increasing concern
 - Reach out to parents, problem solve, and reach back out to the school with solutions

CHALLENGES

- Lack of parent follow through – fails to communicate with program staff or does not make any attempts to improve their child's attendance
- Students refuse to answer door, phone, text, etc. upon pick up
- Larger school districts – more challenging to track attendance
- Ticketing students without referring to program first
- Referring students for habitual truancy without referring to program first
- Meeting with families to address attendance without program staff
- Lack of communication/miscommunication between school officials and program staff

Questions?

Thank you! 😊