Truancy is the first and best indicator that a student is headed for trouble. Statistics show that habitual truancy is the beginning of a downward spiral: truancy, poor performance on standardized tests, falling behind socially, losing interest in and connection to school, dropping out, juvenile delinquency, substance abuse and, eventually, adult criminality. That’s why communities across the country are working hard to reduce truancy.

The University of Baltimore School of Law Center for Families, Children and the Courts (CFCC) has developed an innovative Truancy Court Program that engages volunteer judges in an intensive, 10-week, in-school program for elementary and middle school students. Judges, counselors and education specialists team up with truant students, services providers, parents, teachers and principals to improve overall school attendance. The goal is not to punish students who miss school but to understand—and to practically address—why they are not there.

With a seven-year track record, CCFC’s Truancy Court Program is proven and tested. In the 2010-2011 school year, for example, the program served more than 300 students and their families in 14 Maryland schools. Seventy-two percent of these students graduated from the program, achieving a minimum 65% reduction in absences and tardies and demonstrating improved academics and behavior. Follow-up research also shows that students continue their progress after finishing the program.

Now a step-by-step guide is available that will enable you to implement this effective program in your schools. There are two ways you can bring this successful program to schools in your community.
Buy the Truancy Court Program Toolkit

The valuable tools and resources developed for the Truancy Court Program are available for implementation in your own community. The new Truancy Court Program Toolkit shows you how to start and maintain this effective program.

Here is a sampling of what the Truancy Court Program Toolkit contains:

» Lessons learned, facts and data from CCFC's experience implementing the Truancy Court Program
» Step-by-step guide from student selection to graduation
» Collection of useful forms, including school application form, sample invitation letter to parents, consent form, evaluation/assessment forms, weekly report and graduation certificate
» Detailed guides for the team, teachers and judge
» The Truancy Court Program Mentor Manual, a separate 32-page book providing specific guidance for a Truancy Court Program Mentor

Buy the Complete Truancy Court Program Implementation Package

If you are ready to begin implementation of a comprehensive truancy reduction program right away, consider ordering the complete Truancy Court Program Implementation Package.

It contains:

» 5 hard copies each of the Truancy Court Program Toolkit and Mentor Manual to share with your team
» A customizable electronic copy of the Toolkit and Mentor Manual, provided in Microsoft Word with a licensing agreement to replicate program materials as needed
» 5 hours of implementation coaching via telephone and e-mail with our field experts — CFCC staff and advisors who have established Truancy Court Programs throughout Maryland.
» Powerpoint Presentation, designed for mentors and ready for you to add your special touches

More Options: Intensive technical assistance and even complete operation of a Truancy Court Program is available from CFCC for an additional fee. Please request a price list by emailing cfcc@ubalt.edu.

YES! I want to buy

☑ a single copy of the Truancy Court Program Toolkit and Mentor Manual
☑ the complete Truancy Court Program Implementation Package including a fully customizable electronic copy

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