

Carlsbad Municipal School District Truancy and Drop-Out Prevention

Gary Perkowski, Superintendent
Kelli Barta, Assistant Superintendent

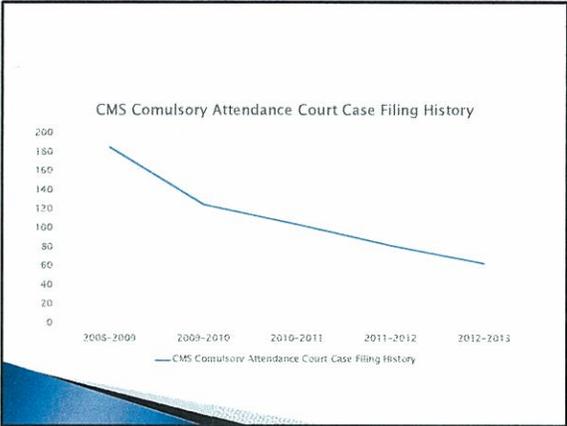
District Truancy History

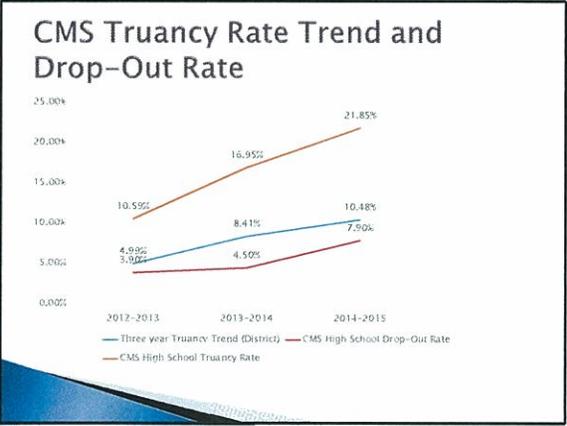
2012-2013 School Year	2013-2014 School Year	2014-2015 School Year
4.99%	8.41%	10.48%

The Carlsbad Municipal School District identified a need for truancy prevention and worked directly with the NMPED during the N.M. 2015 Legislative Session to develop HB240 (School Attendance Law Early Warning System).

Truancy Court Intervention

- ▶ In February, 2009, Carlsbad Municipal School District implemented a *Truancy Court Intervention Program*
- ▶ Any student with 5-9 "unexcused" absences was required to appear in *Truancy Court* with a parent/guardian
- ▶ Student & parent were assigned interventions to improve attendance
- ▶ In May, 2013, *Truancy Court* was paused due to process/procedure changes





CMS Truancy Prevention Plan Early Warning System

- ▶ In response to the drastic increase in truancy and drop-out rates, Carlsbad Municipal School District developed an intervention plan to address the immediate need for action.
- ▶ The Truancy Prevention, Early Warning System provides interventions based on individual student needs and addresses the specific underlying cause of the student's truancy.

Underlying Cause of Truancy

- ▶ Lack of Resources for Students and Families
 - Medical (Behavioral and Physical Health)
 - Food, Shelter, clothing
 - Childcare
 - Transportation
- ▶ Homelessness
- ▶ Academic and Social Needs
- ▶ Lack of Support Systems for Students and Families

Solutions and Interventions

- ▶ Early Warning:
 - A student with **three** Unexcused absences is identified as a student in need of support/services.
 - A letter is delivered to the parent/guardian explaining the Compulsory Attendance Law and meeting with the school Social worker, principal, and parent/guardian is held and a "needs assessment" (intake) is completed.
 - At **five** unexcused absences, a student is in need of intervening services. The student and guardian are notified to appear before the Community Truancy Action Committee.

Solutions and Interventions

- ▶ The confidential process of appearing before the Truancy Action Committee involves the following process:
 - Student and family have the opportunity to meet with a school social worker to determine the need for intervening services
 - Principal provides the committee and Truancy Court Judge information, evidence of attempted interventions, and attendance history
 - Student/family respond with reasons for truancy and may request intervening services in and effort to improve attendance

- Resources are available on site, to immediately address barriers that may be impeding successful attendance
- Student/family are provided time with a social worker to determine long-term services and provide support with securing essential necessities
- Student/family respond with reasons for truancy and may request intervening services in and effort to improve attendance
- Resources are provided as available, a plan for monitoring student attendance and progress is developed, and interventions implemented

- Intervention Assigned by Truancy Action Committee:**
- During Truancy Intervention Court, parents and students are assigned interventions appropriately aligned to the individual needs of the student and family:
 - Parent will walk student to the office in the morning and sign-in
 - Before, during, or after-school tutoring
 - Saturday School (for parents and student)
 - Credit Recovery
 - Follow-up meetings with the social worker and/or appearance in Truancy Intervention Court the following week

- Saturday School**
- Carlsbad Municipal School District applied for a Community Impact Grant from United Way of Carlsbad & South Eddy County
 - Funds are used to provide a Saturday School 2-3 times per week
 - Students and parents attend Saturday School together and receive supports such as:
 - Tutoring, homework assistance
 - Healthy cooking, living, life, study and success skills for students and parents
 - Parenting Class
 - Drug-free education
 - Community Agency presentations and supports

Saturday School

- ▶ Students will make up any work missed during absences and tutoring from certified, highly qualified staff
- ▶ Unexcused absences may be recovered
- ▶ Parents/students earn "Carlsbad Community Cash" (CCC)
 - Local agencies, grocery stores, restaurants, businesses donate vouchers for basic living needs, meals, etc.
 - Participation in Saturday School qualifies as Community Service for those assigned

Success

- ▶ During the 2015-2016 school year, CMS implemented Community Truancy Action Committee Intervention
- ▶ 98% of students/parents assigned interventions based on individual needs and Saturday School, showed improvement in attendance and graduated from Truancy Intervention Court
- ▶ Community agencies and partners participated and a community approach was embraced to support the students and families

Community Truancy Action Committee/Truancy Court

- ▶ Using a presiding judge would provide an accountability system based on needs and a systemic approach demonstrated an improvement in attendance and decrease in drop-out

THANK YOU, LESC MEMBERS

- ▶ Thank you for the opportunity to present the Carlsbad Community Truancy Action Committee, Early Warning System Plan
- ▶ Questions?

- ▶ Gary Perkowski, Superintendent
- ▶ Kelli Barta, Assistant Superintendent
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