



**Attendance/Truancy Office**  
600 S. Selig Ave.  
Montrose, CO 81402  
970- 249-6636 ext. 4076 Fax 970-240-6414

### **Attendance as a Measure for Success:**

Attendance is the single most important measurement for success in life after students graduate from school. And yet, is often the most overlooked while students are in school. Aside from the obvious need to obtain a good grades and satisfactory marks in academic and co-curricular pursuits, attendance is often measure by which business will determine if a young person has the “**self discipline**” to deliver in the work environment. Most community businesses seeking referrals for students applying for jobs, the number one questions from employees to the school is: “Tell me about their attendance.” Self-discipline or the ability to see a tough job through the end is a valuable asset.

### **Poor Attendance and Criminal Activity:**

On the down side, we also know that there is a statistical correlation between poor attendance and involvement with the criminal court system. Research by the Office of Juvenile Justice & Delinquency prevention shows that **85%** of the students’ who demonstrate poor attendance between the 6<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> grades will become involved with delinquent behavior, and get **involved with the juvenile court system** before their 18<sup>th</sup> birthday. Students in this category are also at a higher risk of dropping out of school. This should be alarming to parents, as we know that **50% of prison inmates are high school dropouts.**

### **Attendance and Earning Potential:**

On the financial side, students who drop out of high school represent a majority of the people working at the poverty level or stuck in the State Welfare Systems. A high school dropout, on average, will make between \$6,000 and \$9,000 dollars a year, compared to a high school graduate that makes between \$25,000 and \$40,000 dollars a year. Students who go to onto college will make between \$40,000 to \$75,000 a year depending on their career path, along with students who seek technical and professional degrees earning between \$65,000 and \$150,000 dollars a year. Poor attendances on the job, along with not being able to perform the assigned task, are the reasons most cited by employers for firing employees.

### **How Poor Attendance Impacts Our Community**

In our own community we see attendance issues break out this way. Local statistics show that students who average between 10 and 29 unexcused absences per school year will be more likely to receive failing grades in one or more classes, become involved with disruptive incidences at school, are at a higher risk of suspension and expulsion, and may be become involved with the District Court for truant behavior.

Students who average between 30 and 59 unexcused absences per school year almost always become involved with the District Attorney’s Office for criminal activity, are at a higher risk of drug and alcohol use, at a higher risk of contacting sexually transmitted diseases; and are more likely to become involved with Department of Health & Human Services, local law enforcement and the Mesa County Department of Juvenile Probation.

Students who average more than 60 unexcused absences per year are almost always involved in the criminal court system, have served time or deferred time at the Division of Youth Corrections Services, will more than likely be on Probation and will become involved with drugs and alcohol and drug and alcohol rehabilitation programs. Moreover, they are at a higher risk of not only becoming involved with drug and alcohol use and contacting sexually transmitted diseases, but are also at a higher risk of becoming teenage parents. In addition, students in this category, who do not change their behavior, generally end up repeat juvenile offenders and represent a large number of youth in our nation’s prison system. If that isn’t scary enough we also know that these kids represent a large number of youth killed every year before reaching their 25<sup>th</sup> birthday.

Good attendance pays. Poor attendance costs, sometimes more than we thought possible.