The University of Baltimore School of Law
Sayra and Neil Meyerhoff Center for Families, Children and the Courts

Truancy Court Program
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Mission of the Center for Families, Children and the Courts (CFCC)

• Family justice system reform
• Identifying structures and processes to improve families’ and children’s lives
• Creation of Unified Family Courts (UFC's)

CFCC Student Fellows Program

• 2 semester law school course (5 or 6 credits total)
• Students learn the theory and then put it into practice
• Experiential course; real world application
Truancy Court Program Methodology

• Non-Adversarial
• Holistic
• Therapeutic—A Problem-Solving Approach
• Early Intervention (Targets “Soft” Truants)

Truancy Court Program Goals

• Improve Attendance
• Increase Parent/Caregiver Involvement
• Empower Teachers and Administrators
• Expand Services for Students and Families

Truancy Court Program Characteristics

• One judge (no judicial authority)
• Weekly sessions (10 weeks each semester)
• 10-20 students per school each session
• One-on-one meetings
• School team: social worker, teacher, administrator
• Law school team: faculty supervisor or TCP Coordinator, TCP Mentor, and CFCC Student Fellow
Truancy Court Program Characteristics
(Continued)

• Mandatory parent/caregiver involvement
• Mentoring/character-building classes
• Incentives
• Voluntary (school, judge, student, parents)
• Graduation
• Monitoring

Truancy Court Program Numbers

• TCP has served over 1500 students in 30 Baltimore City Public Schools.
• TCP has served 275 students in 3 of Maryland’s largest counties.
• 25 judges and masters have volunteered to serve as TCP judges for the TCP

TCP Graduation

• Benchmark is a 65% decrease in unexcused absences and/or tardies, along with improved grades and classroom behavior.
• 70% of the TCP students graduate.
Did the TCP team care about you?

Did the TCP Judge and team follow through on the things they promised?

Did you think that you had to listen to what the judge said?

Are you glad you were in the TCP?

Did the program address the problems that kept you from coming to school every day on time?

Would you recommend the TCP to other students?
Did the program help you in any other ways besides truancy?

- Yes
- No
- Somewhat

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