

The Focus on Attendance Partnership

Parent Fact Sheet

What is Focus on Attendance?

Focus on Attendance is a partnership between The Allegheny County Department of Human Services, The Allegheny Intermediate Unit, Juvenile Probation and local public schools, Kindergarten through 12th grade. We connect students and families to community resources so that attendance issues do not get in the way of educational success.

Does it cost anything?

No, Focus on Attendance is a free service for all residents of Allegheny County.

What are the requirements to be eligible for assistance?

Your student should have 6 or more unexcused absences before a referral is made to us, but, if you want the assistance, help can be provided prior. If chronic tardies are an issue, assistance can be provided for this as well.

Is Focus on Attendance mandatory?

No, it is a voluntary service. However, if you decline and the school files a truancy citation, the Magisterial District Judge can offer it as an alternative to a fine.

What happens if I agree to a referral?

Someone from Focus on Attendance will contact you to see how we can best assist you. Sometimes we may just connect you to community resources, or we can refer the family/student to an in-home service provider if you are in agreement.

Who all can make referrals for Focus on Attendance?

Only school personnel or Magisterial District Judges can make referrals to Focus on Attendance.

What are some resources Focus on Attendance can provide?

- Morning/Night Accountability Schedules
- Tutoring/Academic Support
- Parent/Child Conflict
- Advocacy
- Family & Community planning
- Clothing/Housing resources
- Mentoring
- Behavioral Health support/resources

***Focus on Attendance does not provide these services directly, but links you to these resources.**

By agreeing to the referral, you need to understand that you are being referred to the Department of Human Services (DHS) for additional support. Once the referral is accepted, contact will be made with you within two weeks. The referral source (the school) will receive an outcome email once completed.

For more information about attendance laws, please visit:

<https://elc-pa.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/11/ELC-FAQ-Truancy-and-School-Attendance-in-Pennsylvania-under-Act-138.pdf>

For more information about Focus, please email Focus_Attendance@alleghenycounty.us

