

## HISTORY & PURPOSE

*Maryland law requires that any child between the ages of five and sixteen attend school on a regular basis.*

During the 2004 Legislative Session, Maryland State House of Delegates passed legislation granting permission to the First Judicial Circuit to establish a regional truancy reduction program.

The program began in Somerset County in November 2005. Truant students and their families participate in a program whose purpose is to improve attendance in children, ages five to sixteen. This project is a collaborative effort involving the Circuit Court for Somerset County, the Somerset County Board of Education, Maple Shade Youth & Family Services, the Department of Juvenile Services, the Department of Social Services, local legislative representatives, the Local Management Board, and other service providers.

## OBJECTIVES

The Truancy Reduction Pilot Program:

- ❖ Focuses on identifying the underlying causes of chronic truancy.
- ❖ Partners with community agencies to improve student attendance and school success rates, through referrals for appropriate services and support.



## THE PROCESS

- ❖ When a student is determined truant, the Board of Education files a petition with the court.
- ❖ The truant student and their parent or guardian is summonsed to appear before the Court.
- ❖ The court reviews records and obtains information from the Board of Education, the student, and parent(s) or guardian.
- ❖ The student is ordered to attend school and the family is referred for services, as needed.
- ❖ Hearings are held as deemed appropriate by the court, based on student progress.
- ❖ Improved attendance and other positive achievements are recognized and reinforced.

## OUTCOMES

### Those completing the Truancy Reduction Pilot Program Will:

- ❖ Demonstrate a consistent, long-term improvement in school attendance.
- ❖ Recognize the importance of regular school attendance and the consequences of truancy.
- ❖ Participate in programs and services that improve individual and family lives.



## Contact Information

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# Truancy Reduction Pilot Program

First Judicial Circuit  
of  
Maryland

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Wicomico  
Worcester

