



# Prince George's County

## TRUANCY STUDY WORKGROUP

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### Meeting Minutes

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**Wednesday, February 19, 2025**

**3:00 PM**

**Virtual Meeting**

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#### Minutes

- CM Oriadha opened the meeting at 3:00 PM and reminded the group of the purpose of the Workgroup and the expectation for final recommendations from all stakeholders.
- Workgroup members approved the minutes from the prior meeting.
- Workgroup members discussed some of the recommendations that were proffered prior to the meeting:
  1. Creating an attendance monitoring system
  2. Parental engagement workshops
  3. Incentive programs for students
  4. School attendance teams (SATs)
  5. Home visits for chronic truancy
  6. Community partnerships
  7. Flexible scheduling and online learning options
  8. Mentorship programs
  9. School-based mental health services
  10. Attendance awareness campaigns
- Each recommendation has an associated timeframe for implementation, cost estimate, impact, and description.
- PGCPS noted that some of the recommendations are already in different formats.
  - The attendance monitoring system exists, and who can see the data varies from school to school and on the individual case.
- Workgroup members expanded on parental engagement workshops by emphasizing the need for these to be holistic of the needs of parents and students:
  - Existing barriers to transportation.
  - Need for resource incentives.

- Virtual or hybrid workshops for accessibility.
  - Translators needed for non-English speakers.
  - Childcare may be needed for parents.
  - Focus on inclusive meetings without judgment.
- Under incentive programs, members discussed the need for additional support for truant students:
  - Tutoring services so they can catch up on missed work.
  - PGCPS noted that partnerships with universities, peers, and others for tutoring exist.
- Donna Christy noted that the aim should not be to go from truant to perfect attendance but rather incremental improvements in attendance over time.
- Members suggested increased home visits for truant students; however, others noted personnel issues with having two staff visiting the homes of each truant student.
- Members discussed increasing community partnerships to curb truancy. A question arose on how to measure the success of a community school in meeting the needs of students and the community.
- Members noted the need for flexible scheduling and online learning opportunities.
  - PGCPS noted that there is an online school option for some students and evening classes for catch up of missed materials.
- Members remarked on the need to better understand school-based mental health services, including researching to understand schools that have social workers and the associated cost and a recommended ratio.