

**Project Operational Plan “RESTORE”
Orangeburg County Attendance**

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Key words: Parental, Engagement, Empowerment and Resiliency

Funding Sources:

General Funds

Project Cost and Budget Narrative:

Active Parenting Sessions (District Parenting Program Staff)	\$1,500.00
Parent Institute Empowerment Sessions (OC Attendance Office, Solicitor's Office, District Office)	\$ 300.00
Parent Graduation Ceremony (OC Attendance and Parent Staff)	\$1,200.00
Home Visits (District and Parenting Staff, OC Attendance)	\$5,000.00
Parenting Group Meetings	\$1,500.00

Project Description:

Project **RESTORE** seeks to identify and improve relationships as stakeholders, engage and improve the resiliency of those students who are at-risk, and engage as well as empower parents as responsible partners.

Staffing Pattern:

Staffing will include the Orangeburg County Attendance Supervisor, Administrative Assistant, Attendance personnel at individual schools, and other personnel involved in student services.

Population Served:

250 Students identified as most at-risk attending based upon criteria of 1) grades, 2) discipline and 3) attendance in Orangeburg County Schools.

Project Origination:

Orangeburg County Attendance exists to ensure academic success for all students. Begun in 1960, Orangeburg County Attendance initially began as a collaboration between multiple Orangeburg County School Districts. Under the new single district consolidated format, its primary objective is to ensure that the state compulsory laws are enforced in support of the Orangeburg Consolidated School Districts mission. Based on best practices research by the South Carolina State and U. S. Department of Education, there is a direct correlation between unexcused school attendance (truancy) and dropout rates.

Issues Addressed:

With limited exceptions, South Carolina law requires regular school attendance for every child who is at least five years old on or before the first day of September of the school year, until the child turns seventeen years old. Parents are primarily responsible for ensuring their child's regular attendance and face statutory penalties if they do not.

Desired Outcomes and Measurable Objectives:

- Improvement in the areas of student academics, behavior, and attendance
- Increased parent and stakeholder involvement

Strategies and/or Interventions of the Project:

- Identify a planning team
- Associate Superintendent
- Meet with Superintendent
- Parenting Coordinator & other Senior District Staff
- Conduct stakeholder meeting with Principal and Alternative School Director

Results (Outcomes and Achievements):

Due to consolidation, results are not available at this time

Project Timeline:

Academic School year

Outcomes Related to School Completion, Dropout Prevention, and/or Graduation Rates:

If properly implemented this plan should facilitate the following:

- Reduce recidivism
- Reduce the number of trancies
- Increase student graduation rates
- Increase parental involvement by enhancing their roles as stakeholders
- Facilitate stakeholders' understanding of the how the juvenile justice and educational system operates
- Interaction and potential impact on the child's educational outcome

Special Conditions, Expertise, and/or Skills Required to Carry Out Project

- Background in intervention or prevention programming
- Desire and confidence to interact with a diversity of communities
- Willingness to do community outreach at the grassroots level

Current Status of Project:

On hold due to consolidation of school district

Role in Project as a NDPS Certification Program Participant:

Author of project. Future role to be determined.

Lessons Learned:

Parent involvement and family engagement are critical in the success of our students. These stakeholders play a vital role in the education of our youth and, with their support, we can increase student achievement, reduce behavior issues and improve attendance.

Advice for Dropout Prevention Practitioners about the Project:

Goal #1 – Improve Relationships with Stakeholders- This goal is important because it directly impacts the mission and vision of the school district. You cannot educate an empty seat.

Goal #2 – Engage and Improve Resiliency of At-risk Students – This goal is important because on review of truancy cases, students coded 151 or habitually truant, exhibit certain factors that make them at-risk.

Goal #3 – Engage and Empower Parents as Responsible Partners – This goal is important because overall success and accomplishment of the mission is contingent upon collaboration with other external stakeholders such as the Solicitor’s Office, Department of Juvenile Justice, and the Department of Social Services.