

Budget Considerations



School Attendance Court March 22, 2011



Fort Worth
INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT



Program Overview

- The Comprehensive Truancy Intervention Program (CTIP) is a District prevention and intervention initiative that addresses student attendance
- Goals include increasing student attendance and decreasing high school dropout rates
- Aimed at students with excessive, unexcused absences
- Two components: campus-level support and intervention, and referral to a city/municipal truancy court
- Campus support and intervention provided through District stay-in school coordinators and Tarrant County District Attorney's office
- City/municipal court operated by municipal court judge and city staff



Court Actions and Options

- Ten or more unexcused absences results in a request to file court action proceedings
- Once filed, all jurisdiction is transferred to the courts
- If student or parent is found guilty, court may
 - Fine the student and/or parent
 - Remand student back to school with no further unexcused absences
 - Require student and/or parent to participate in counseling or parenting classes
 - Require a substance abuse assessment
 - Require withdrawal from the regular school program and enrollment in a GED program



School Attendance Court Cost

- Contract with City of Fort Worth for \$683,832
- Facility maintenance and utilities



Program Outcomes

- Increase in District Average Daily Attendance since 2001-2002
- 3,283 Cases filed in 2009-2010
 - 2,012 filed on students for non-attendance
 - 1,270 filed on parents for “parent contributing to non-attendance”
- Students and/or parent or guardians attended 84.2% of scheduled dockets
- Decrease in absences for 79.7% of students attending hearings
- Increase in absences for 20.2% of students attending hearings



Impact of Program Elimination

- Increase in unexcused absences from school
- Decrease in ADA funding
- Increase in dropout rate
- Negative impact on campus and District accountability ratings
- Decrease in capacity of community (less educated population, decreased earning power)



Options for Consideration

Option I

- Continue city/municipal school attendance court with renegotiated contract that weighs recaptured ADA and fine revenue

Option II

- Continue city/municipal school attendance court while pursuing truancy court options that do not incur costs to the District

Option III

- Eliminate the school attendance court program

