



FOURTEENTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT  
61 EAST MAIN STREET  
UNIONTOWN, PENNSYLVANIA 15401

JOHN F. WAGNER, JR.  
PRESIDENT JUDGE

FAYETTE COUNTY  
COURT OF COMMON PLEAS  
724-430-1236

September 3, 2018

**In Re: Fayette County Truancy Prevention Program (TPP)**

Dear Board of Fayette County Commissioners, School Administrators, Magisterial District Judges, Children & Youth Services Administrators, Service Providers, and all key stakeholders who contribute to the success of Fayette County students:

Our public education system is based upon the assumption that children attend school. In Pennsylvania, our School Code states that every child between the ages of 6 and 21 years is entitled to a free and full education in our public schools. The Code also requires compulsory attendance in school for children and youth from ages 8 to 17. In Fayette County, where we face significant challenges in terms of education, unemployment, and intergenerational poverty, we all have a vested interest in the success of every student in our County.

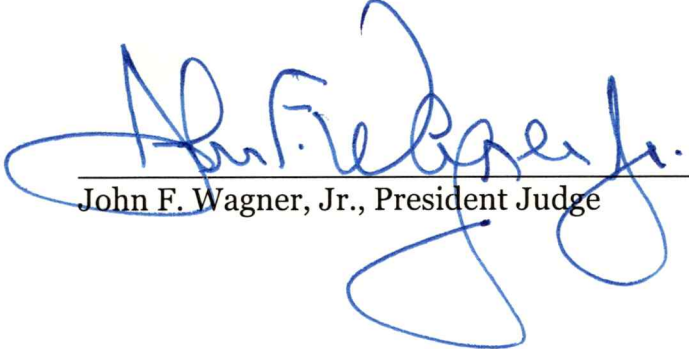
It can be difficult to quantify the scope of the truancy problem in Fayette County and in Pennsylvania. In the past, school districts have used different definitions and reporting methods related to truancy, making it difficult to compare results among schools. We do know that Fayette County has approximately 18,000 school age youth, and our Magisterial District Courts process more than 1,000 truancy citations each year. The provisions of the new truancy law (Act 138 of 2016) provide more consistency in terms of terminology and procedures related to truancy, but are also likely to increase the number of families in the County identified for school attendance issues.

The Truancy Workgroup from the Fayette County Children's Roundtable recognizes that truancy is a challenging problem to address. There is no single root cause of habitual truancy, and every family is unique in terms of circumstances and needs. Truancy is also not just a problem for schools, but a larger issue that requires a coordinated response from many different sectors in our community. This Truancy

Prevention Program (TPP) represents an effort to coordinate many different resources and stakeholders with a well-defined and consistent process.

The development of this TPP also reflects the understanding of the limited funding and resources available to address truancy issues in the community. This TPP was developed with a conscious effort to allocate obligations and costs in a way that makes the most efficient and cost-effective use of the limited resources available. On behalf of the Fayette County Children's Roundtable and the Roundtable's Truancy Workgroup, I would like to thank the Roundtable and Workgroup members, school administrators, Magisterial District Judges, and representatives from local agencies for their input and continuing support of this important work.

Very truly yours,



John F. Wagner, Jr., President Judge

IN THE COURT OF COMMON PLEAS OF FAYETTE COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA



In Re: :  
:  
Fayette County Truancy Protocol : MD-337-2018

**ORDER**

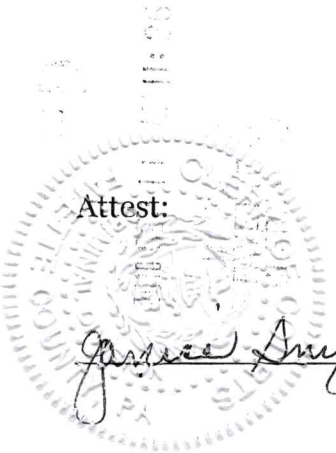
**AND NOW**, this 3<sup>rd</sup> day of September, 2018, the Court of Common Pleas of Fayette County, Pennsylvania, hereby adopts the attached Fayette County Truancy Protocol for use by all Fayette County Courts, Juvenile Probation and Children and Youth Services. The Court recommends to all school districts referring cases to the Fayette County Courts to apply and follow the truancy protocol, thereby bringing about a uniform truancy policy.

The Fayette County Truancy Protocol will be effective on September 3, 2018.

BY THE COURT:

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John F. Wagner, Jr., President Judge

Attest:



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Janice Snyder