

## CASE STUDY

# Project Truancy Flips Truancy Rate in Frisco, TX ISD



### NEED:

Attendance in the Frisco ISD had fallen far short of expectations with 80 families referred to truancy court. Recognizing that good education begins with good attendance, the district committed to working with families to resolve attendance issues.

Managing a truancy process is a challenge for any district with multiple campuses. Sending warning letters is a crucial step but doing so in a timely manner is difficult when isolated attendance data does not provide a functional workflow. Campuses need to be informed of which students need letters – and which letters they need – at various stages.

### ACTION:

Frisco ISD resolved to address this challenge with the resources of personnel, professional development, and technology. This resolve included a partnership with Project Education and Payton, Nix and Associates. District leaders chose Project Education as their technology management platform because it could match and adapt to existing processes and address many of the barriers to early intervention.

Through Project Education consulting services, Judge John Payton and Dr. Charles Nix helped the district establish new processes and allocate resources to facilitate district-level Truancy Tribunals. The Project Education software allowed the Tribunals, campuses, and teachers to provide timely, essential information to meet student and family needs. The streamlined process allowed the district to utilize data and meet with hundreds of students, building relationships and addressing the root causes of their attendance issues with confidence and compassion.



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**PROJECT**  
**EDUCATION**

## RESULTS:

**84% Drop in Truancy Court Cases:** In Frisco's first year after implementing Project Truancy, just 13 families were referred to court – compared to 80 the prior year.

**Millions in State Funding Recovered:** Frisco recovered \$1.2 million in funding in Year 1 of using Project Truancy, and projected a \$2 million recovery for Year 2.

**Dramatic Reductions in Unexcused Absences at All Levels.** Frisco's elementary schools saw an 11% drop in unexcused absences; middle schools dropped 28%, and high schools 26%.

**Academic Improvements for Students After Truancy Interventions:** Students with 10+ absences went from passing an average of two classes before Project Truancy to passing four or more classes after interventions.

**Help for Root Causes of Truancy:** The process helped Frisco ISD identify and provide interventions/support to help students in areas such as Mental Health, Substance Abuse, Family Counseling, and Parental Support.



## PROCESS IMPROVEMENTS WITH PROJECT TRUANCY:

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1. Systemization of parent notification letters and documentation; including translations
2. Truancy process standardized across all campuses
3. Clearer understanding of attendance shortfalls and needs and successes
4. Schools alerted of which students are in need, upcoming meetings, overdue documentation
5. Holistic dialogue for the students' needs, addressing academics, behavior, and attendance together in one conversation
6. Information access when students transfer between campuses to maintain schedules for interventions, accommodations, or services
7. Easy data access for all stakeholders including teachers, administrators, specialists, and parents

