



**MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING (MOU)
BETWEEN THE BETHEL SCHOOL DISTRICT
AND PIERCE COUNTY JUVENILE COURT**

Parties:

Bethel School District ("School District")
Pierce County Juvenile Court ("Truancy Unit")

Purpose:

The MOU between the Bethel School District and the Truancy Unit has been developed for the following purposes:

1. Define the roles of each of the parties.
2. Facilitate the acts of all parties toward a collaborative and uniform process for truancy cases in Pierce County.

Authority:

The parties' actions regarding truancy are governed by RCW 28A.225, et. seq.

Roles and Responsibilities:

1. The School District shall:
 - a. Have a Community Engagement Board to address students' barriers to attendance and maintain communication with the Truancy Unit regarding these efforts.
 - b. Follow the statutory requirements and procedures regarding truancy and notification of child/parent(s)/guardian(s) prior to/while involving the Truancy Unit in pursuing a truancy petition.
 - c. Ensure that all necessary evidence and witnesses are provided for the truancy proceedings in Juvenile Court.
 - d. Provide regular updates to the Truancy Unit regarding the attendance and performance of children involved in the truancy process.
 - e. Provide appropriate service of all documents related to the truancy proceedings on the appropriate parties.
 - f. Provide a designee to represent the school district during all truancy actions, including but not limited to, preparing/filing documents, participating in negotiations and attending all hearings on behalf of the school district.

- g. Identify the person or persons who coordinate(s) School District efforts to address excessive absenteeism and truancy (Updated through OSPI).
- h. Agree that all truancy proceedings will be initiated by a petition, which will be stayed initially, allowing for the opportunity to resolve the truancy matters through alternative interventions.
- i. Authorize the Truancy Unit to file documents with the Court on the School District's behalf.

2. The Truancy Unit shall:

- a. Provide ongoing assistance to the School District in the operation of Community Engagement Boards when a school files and stays a Truancy petition or sends PCJC an Attendance Engagement referral form in lieu of a petition.
- b. Assign a Truancy Juvenile Probation Counselor to the School District who will monitor students according to the level of concerns and attendance, make recommendations as to possible interventions, and provide regular updates to the School District.
- c. Provide Positive Youth Development (PYD) Programs for youth ages 13 and above who are on a Truancy Petition and are determined to be appropriate for such programs following a screening of the referral by the assigned Truancy Juvenile Probation Counselor.
- d. File documents on behalf of the School District, as requested by the School District and as arranged directly with the Truancy Unit.

The Parties agree to work collaboratively towards the goals of addressing and eliminating truancy with appropriate communication and respect while following the terms herein. This MOU will be reviewed annually (per school year) by both parties at which time revisions may be made and the agreement renewed.



 School District Representative Date

 10/14/21

 Date
 Juvenile Court Administrator
 Pierce County Juvenile Court
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 Tacoma, WA 98406
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