



Minnesota State University, Mankato

## Cornerstone: A Collection of Scholarly and Creative Works for Minnesota State University, Mankato

---

All Graduate Theses, Dissertations, and Other  
Capstone Projects

Graduate Theses, Dissertations, and Other  
Capstone Projects

---

2013

### Truancy Intervention and Prevention Programs for the Marshall Middle School

Gayle Chandler  
*Minnesota State University, Mankato*

Follow this and additional works at: <https://cornerstone.lib.mnsu.edu/etds>



Part of the [Elementary and Middle and Secondary Education Administration Commons](#), and the [Social Work Commons](#)

---

#### Recommended Citation

Chandler, G. (2013). Truancy Intervention and Prevention Programs for the Marshall Middle School [Master's capstone project, Minnesota State University, Mankato]. Cornerstone: A Collection of Scholarly and Creative Works for Minnesota State University, Mankato. <https://cornerstone.lib.mnsu.edu/etds/851/>

This Other Capstone Project is brought to you for free and open access by the Graduate Theses, Dissertations, and Other Capstone Projects at Cornerstone: A Collection of Scholarly and Creative Works for Minnesota State University, Mankato. It has been accepted for inclusion in All Graduate Theses, Dissertations, and Other Capstone Projects by an authorized administrator of Cornerstone: A Collection of Scholarly and Creative Works for Minnesota State University, Mankato.





# MINNESOTA STATE UNIVERSITY MANKATO

## Truancy Intervention & Prevention Programs for the Marshall Middle School

Gayle Chandler, MSW Student, Minnesota State University, Mankato

Field Instructors: Robin Wingo & Michelle Alvarez

Site Supervisors: Jennifer Hey & Heather Bigler

### Purpose:

After completing a field practicum at the Marshall Middle School in Marshall, MN it was realized that like many other schools in the nation; the truancy problem is growing at an alarmingly fast rate.

- The Marshall Middle School is comprised of grades 5-8.
- Under the age of 12 would be considered educational neglect.
- 12 years of age and older is considered truancy per Minnesota State Statute.

This project aims to research intervention and prevention programs for both truancy and educational neglect that have been tested, compare them to the needs of the Marshall Middle School, and make a recommendation as to what program may work best in an effort to reduce truancy and educational neglect and the implications they both have on student's futures.

### Methodology:

- Interviewed key personnel at the Marshall Middle School
- Developed a list of criterion to cross reference with what programs had to offer.
  - Size of school district
  - Necessary partnerships available
  - Ages of youth to be served
  - Rurality of community to be served
- Key words such as "truancy", "truancy prevention", "truancy intervention", and "absenteeism" were used to search for programs and curriculums.
- Selected five programs to compare and contrast
- Recommendation was made as to which program would best fit the Marshall Middle School.

A special thank you to the Marshall Middle School for their support, knowledge, and willingness to allow field placements. The willingness to teach about school social work in a rural community was like none other.

	Age group served	Training	Cost	Research based	Compatibility w/ rural communities
Consistency Management & Cooperative Discipline	Pre- K - 12th grade	36 hours of workshops in the first year, followed by review workshops in proceeding years	1-2% schools budget first year and 3-5% of budget in following years	yes	no, but it is unclear why
Communities in Schools	K-12	orientation and training days with optional 16 month certification	\$189/student/year	yes	yes
Check and Connect	K-12	Manual OR up to 5 days of training are available	\$595 OR \$1,700/student	yes	yes
Families and Schools Together FAST	Pre-K - age 14	14 days of training plus eight weeks with a mentor to continue one on one training	\$30,000/ school year	yes	yes
Wyman's Teen Outreach Program - TOP	6-12 grade	Several days of training including orientation, curriculum, and facilitating groups.	\$26,000 first year, \$6000 for following years OR \$500-\$700/student	yes	yes

### Key Findings:

Of all the programs reviewed, this author would recommend that the Marshall Middle School integrate the Check and Connect program into their curriculum. Considering all the variables given by stakeholders at the middle school, this program would make the most sense in the form of buying the manual and having both school social workers educate themselves on the program. This would not only be the most cost effective (\$50/manual) but it is not far from the current practices at the middle school, so implementation could occur fairly quickly.

### Limitations and Barriers:

- Little to no research has been completed in rural areas.
- Not many school have the means for a truancy intervention/prevention program, so policy changes are made instead of implementing a curriculum.
- With Check and Connect, it is not necessary for mentors to attend training, although it would be beneficial. It was this authors recommendation that the Marshall Middle School not attend the training and buy the manual, the most cost effective approach.
- In looking at all the programs researched, parents involvement is a crucial component of student success in school. Programs should engage parents from the beginning to build relationships and trust.
- Policy changes within schools need to be made to align with the Check and Connect program.

### Implications for Social Work Practice:

There is an ever growing trend throughout the United States of young people not attending school on a daily basis. This is not only a problem because it affects their education but also because "research has shown that truancy is related to delinquency, substance use and abuse, high school dropout, suicidal thoughts and attempts, and early sexual intercourse" (U.S. Department of Justice, nd). "It is estimated that people with a high school diploma or GED, will make somewhere around \$10,000/year more than a person who has not completed high school or equivalent test" (Institute of Education Science, 2013).

### References:

References are available upon request.

# Marshall Middle School Tigers