



Aurora Public Schools

A Day in the Life of an APS Truancy Specialist



Aurora Public Schools is working hard to curb truancy. It is often the dedicated work of those behind-the-scenes that brings students back to school. In APS, these staff members are known as truancy specialists.

The work of the truancy reduction team brought 295 students back to school this year. That resulted in a total of \$1.9 million for the district in per pupil revenue.

One APS student says his truancy specialist changed his life. Guillermo Torres is a junior at Aurora Central High School. He met his truancy specialist in April 2011, after missing 79 days of school and failing most of his classes.

“This year I have not missed any days of school,” said Torres. “I haven’t failed a class this year and currently my grades are all C’s or better!”

Recently, APS truancy team members joined Superintendent John L. Barry and APS Leadership Team and Board of Education members to go door-to-door to speak with truant students.

“Working with truant students can be extremely challenging... but incredibly rewarding.”

- Joanne Geiss, APS Truancy Advocate

Last year, nearly half of APS schools had no habitual truants or showed some decrease in the percentage of habitual truants. Of the 134 students in the 2010-11 truancy program, 73% showed improvement in their rate of unexcused absences.



Did you Know?

APS offers a voluntary Fifth Block of Instruction, which provides 23 additional days of learning in math and literacy for students who could benefit most from additional learning time. This is possible thanks to the \$14.7 million mill levy passed by voters in 2008. Fifth Block will take place May 29 to June 28.

For more information, visit fifthblock.aurorak12.org/.

