



PROJECT REBUILD
REBUILDING TRUST, FAMILIES, & COMMUNITY | ONE FAMILY AT A TIME.
A Truancy Intervention & Prevention Solution

WHAT IS PRB?

Project Rebuild (PRB) started in 2012 as a six week truancy intervention and prevention program designed to address truancy and the issues it causes in the city of Gary. PRB is different from other solutions to truancy in that it focuses on the rehabilitation of students and their families rather than punishment.

When a family is ordered to appear in court to address truancy issues, they are given the option to pay the fine associated with the citation or participate in the PRB program. Those who choose the program are taught to rebuild trust within the family by opening up lines of communication, rebuild the family as a whole by establishing set roles and responsibilities and rebuild the community by applying skills to the workforce or for the benefit of others.

When families complete the PRB program, students exhibit vastly improved school attendance and behavior. The program maintains a recidivism rate of just 1% which is vastly lower than the rate of students whose families simply pay the truancy fine without rehabilitation.

CONTACT

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What can PRB do for you?

In correcting the issue of truancy, PRB staff and volunteers find that missing school is often caused by many other problems in the home such as a lack of importance placed on education, illiteracy and financial instability. Some of the services offered at PRB to combat these issues and more are:

- Parenting education
- Drop-out prevention education
- Mental health/counseling
- Tutoring/academic assistance
- Mentoring
- College and career readiness
- Extracurricular activities
- Community service opportunities
- Employment assistance
- Financial literacy

The Benefits of PRB

While keeping students in school is the primary goal and benefit of PRB, the program actually provides many benefits to different groups including families, schools, community members and the justice system.

Family Benefits

The students and families involved see some of the most immediate benefits of the PRB program. Not only are the students kept in school and thus on the path to a more successful future, but the relationships between family members are restored during the process. Additionally, parents and others in the family can benefit from the various services offered by PRB such as parenting education or employment assistance.

School Benefits

School systems have a lot to gain when their students participate in the PRB program. First off, PRB reduces the likelihood that a student will drop out of school before graduation. PRB also reduces truancy statistics. When these drop out and truancy rates are low, schools receive higher grades from the Department of Education. Also, PRB students have fewer behavioral issues in the classroom when they come out of the program which is a benefit for the teachers.

Community Benefits

Statistically, when truancy decreases, so does juvenile crime. When PRB puts kids back in school, they are no longer unsupervised throughout the day and are less likely to commit crime in the community. In addition to a reduction in crime, PRB produces more individuals who can make positive contributions to the community through their career readiness services. PRB also accepts sponsors to assist in financing services for families who need them. This provides a great opportunity for local businesses to get involved with or donate to a worthy non-profit.

Justice System Benefits

Not only does PRB produce direct benefits for community members, but the program can also impact the community through the justice system. PRB takes truancy cases away from the courts which frees up more time and resources for dealing with more pressing and dangerous legal matters. Keeping truant students out of jail not only gives them the opportunity to turn their lives around, but also creates more room in the jails for dangerous offenders.

