

Truancy Remains a Big Problem but There's Hope

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School truancy remains a big problem in Del Norte... but there's hope on the horizon.

The Triplicate met with School's Chief Jeff Harris and Chief Probation Chief Lonnie Reyman who've partnered to address this chronic problem of kids not attending school.

According to Superintendent Harris and a average of 21.7 percent of 3267 are absent at any given time; that's about 709 kids in K-12. Many are considered chronically absent (three consecutive days).

The numbers are slowly ebbing down since the height of Covid.

The loss is two fold: the District has lost \$6.2million over the period of 2019 to 2024.

The other loss comes from kids not experiencing the social aspects of attending school and socializing with fellow students, adult authorities and programs.

Chief Probation Office declares truancy has been a big for years. Reyman started his truancy prevention program back in 2018. “When kids do not go to school, they forfeit the lack of engagement, in numerous other schools activities, sports, music, after school activities and clubs. Plus, kids who don’t go to school are more apt to commit crimes.

The DNUSD now 100 percent funds a full-time position to make home visits, meet with school principals.

The emphasis on working with parents on K-5 and grades 5-8 is underscored.

State Law requires attending of Certified K-12 for ages 6-18.