

OSPI Re-Envisioning Truancy in Washington Project

Purpose & Goals

OSPI is engaged in exploring equitable truancy policies and practices in order to engage and support youth to access their education. OSPI will do this by talking with students and families with lived experience of the truancy process, education partners, and communities. OSPI seeks to understand what resources, supports, and policy changes will help ensure that our state's truancy system centers the needs and experiences of youth and families, emphasizes school reengagement, moves away from punitive approaches, provides early intervention and supports and address system gaps when student and family needs are outside the scope of the education system.

Guiding Questions

The following questions will guide this project:

1. How do youth and families with lived experience of the truancy process in the last several years, and partners in the education system who implement truancy-related policies, **perceive** and **experience** current truancy policies and their implementation?
2. What **changes** would youth, families, and partners in the education system like to see made to current truancy policies and their implementation? What changes would they like to see when student and family need is outside the scope of the education system?
3. What **systems** and **supports** need to be in place to facilitate these changes? What are the barriers to making these changes happen? What might support these changes to occur?

Who will be engaged in this process and how?

Planning Group

The Planning Group has membership from Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI), Center for Children & Youth Justice (CCYJ), American Institute for Research (AIR) and Puget Sound Educational Service District (PSESD).

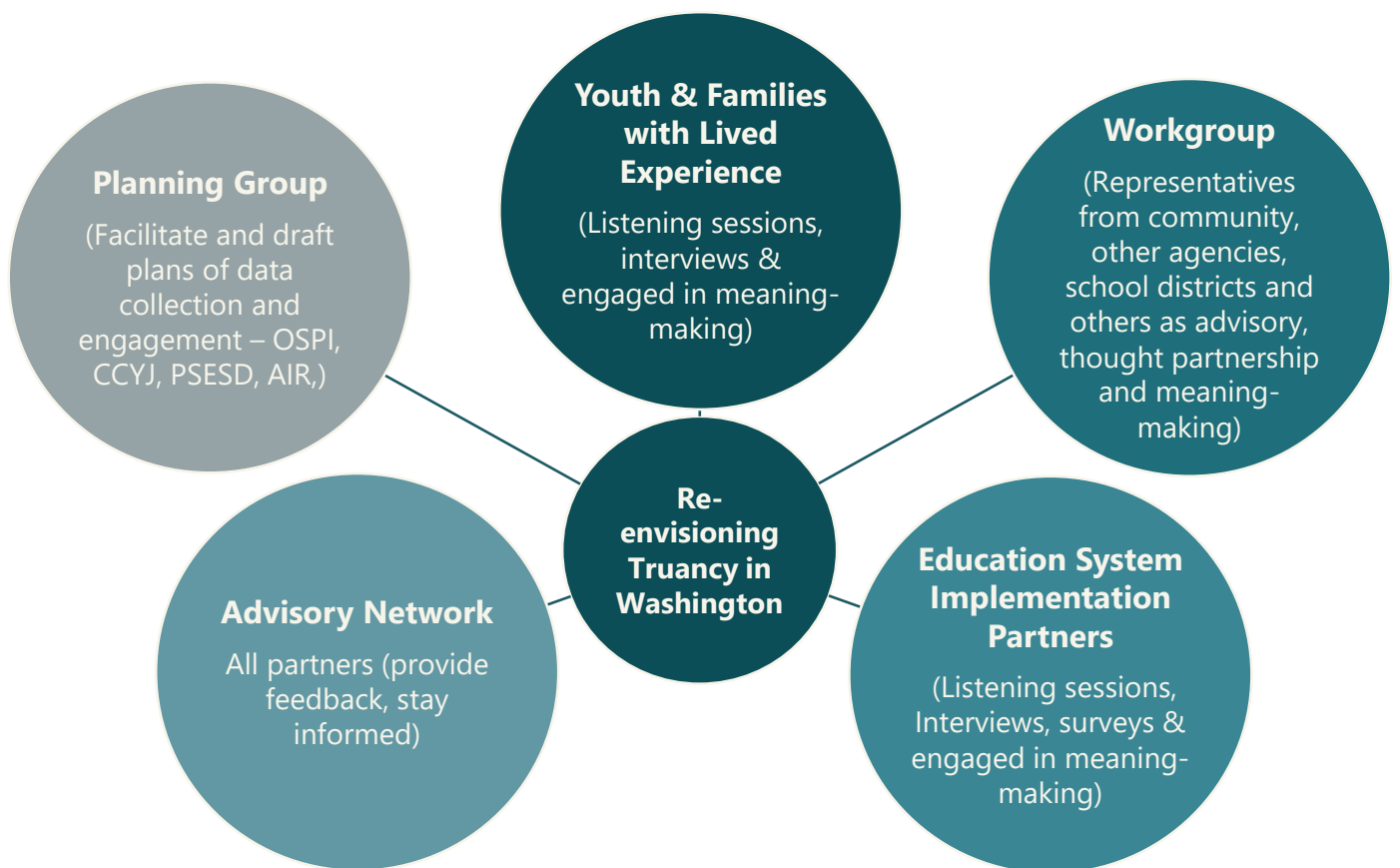
Youth & Families with Lived Experience

This project will identify youth and families who have directly experienced the truancy practices in school buildings as well as broader truancy practices and policies with local juvenile courts. This could mean the student has unexcused absences, they have received punishment,



consequences, supports or interventions from their school because of their unexcused absences, they have had a truancy petition filed with the local juvenile court, they have been invited to or participated in a truancy workshop or a community engagement board, or they have been withdrawn due to nonattendance), within the last 5 years.

Students and families will be engaged through listening sessions, focus groups, and interviews. The youth and families we engage with will also engage in making meaning of the information that we gather through the listening sessions, as well as guiding the development of the recommendations. These sessions will be led by the PSESD & AIR teams, with the questions and methodology informed by the Working Group. **Youth & families will be provided compensation for their participation.**



Education System Implementation Partners

We will engage our partners who are deeply involved in implementing truancy policies and procedures such as principals, attendance clerks, district truancy liaisons, district social workers, school counselors, community-based organizations, educational service districts and courts.

Re-envisioning Truancy in Washington Workgroup

OSPI will partner with CCYJ, AIR and PSESD Evaluation Team to facilitate a Re-Envisioning Truancy in Washington Workgroup. The members of the workgroup will bring knowledge and

experience of the different sectors and agencies that implement truancy, will be able to provide diverse perspectives and will represent communities that are highly impacted by truancy including but not limited to students of color, students with an IEP or 504 Plan, and students from economically disadvantaged households; as well as representing the diversity of our state geographically.

The workgroup will advise the Planning Group on the data collection process, provide outreach support of youth, families, and system implementation partners, collaborate on making meaning of the findings, and shape findings into recommendations. See Workgroup members below.

Advisory Network

The Advisory Network will be a diverse representation of the many education and partnering organizations, agencies, and interests. The Network will have the opportunity to stay informed of the status of the project, participate in recruitment of youth and families with lived experience, provide feedback on data collection results and shape the recommendations.

To join the Advisory Network, sign up for updates [here](#).

Informing State-level Gaps

Learnings from this project will inform OSPI of that gaps and opportunities that might be related to policies, funding, resource allocation, staffing, professional development, and data needs.

Contact

To learn more, contact Krissy Johnson, Assistant Director of Attendance & Engagement at the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI) at krissy.johnson@k12.wa.us.

Workgroup Members

Name	Title	Organization
Rhonda Larson	Assistant Superintendent, Family Engagement & Student Support	Auburn School District
Alice Amaya	Exec. Director of Student Supports	Pasco School District
Julia Dudley	Middle School Principal	Pasco School District
Erica Bravo	District Attendance & Truancy Liaison	Franklin Pierce School District
Vicki Wood	District Attendance & Truancy Liaison	Evergreen School District
Caesy Morphis	District Social Worker, Attendance & Truancy Liaison	Central Valley (Spokane) School District

Wendy Wynecoop	District Attendance, Truancy Liaison & ESSER Reengagement Lead	Wellpinit School District
Ambra Bryant	High School Principal	College Place School District
Patrick Vincent	K-8 School Principal	Union Gap School District
Teresa McMahon (Clark County Juvenile Court and ESD 112)	Probation Counselor Prevention and Youth Services	Clark County Juvenile Court & ESD 112
Claire Pearson Walker (ESD 112)	Attendance & Reengagement Coordinator	ESD 112
Mona Halcomb (OSPI - Office of Native Education)	Native Student Success Program Supervisor	Office of Native Education (OSPI)
Aly Peone (Spokane Tribe)	Education Program Manager	Spokane Tribe
Bruce Austin Brian French Paul Strand Thoa Thu Vo	Truancy Researchers and Developers of the WARNS	Washington State University (WSU)
Karen Pillar	Legal Advocate	Team Child
George Yeannakis	Managing Attorney	WA State Office of Public Defense
Jamie Kvistad	Senior Deputy Prosecuting Attorney	King County Prosecutor's Office
Sheri Oertel	Defense Attorney	Washington Defenders Association
Terrell Dorsey	Program Director	Unleash The Brilliance
Tristan Eddy	Program Director	Justice for Girls Coalition of Washington State
Abigail Westbrook	Director of Policy and Legal Services	Washington School District Directors Association (WSSDA)
Peggy Carlson	Education Program Administrator	Department of Children Youth & Families (DCYF)
Kimberly Sanchez	Education Engagement Director, K-12	Department of Health
Laraine Clardy	Program Specialist, Prevention and Community Health, Adolescent Health	Department of Health

Chris Simonsmeier	Juvenile Court Administrator	Clark County
Kelly Ryan	Juvenile Services Director	Asotin County Juvenile Court and WAJCA Representative
Melody Edmiston	Citizen	Participating as a Citizen
Tamika (Mika) Dean	Community Engagement Specialist	Office of Education Ombuds