

TOP 5 REASONS TO GRADUATE*

Longer Life

High school graduates live longer and have better indicators of general health.

More Money

Average annual income of a high school graduate is \$33,633 versus \$19,365 for dropouts.

Steady Employment

High school dropouts have only a 58% chance of steady employment and are twice as likely to slip into poverty.

Safe Streets

Increasing the national graduation rate by 10% would reduce homicides and assaults by approximately 20%.

Healthy Habits

High school dropouts are significantly at higher risk for substance abuse and crime.

*Sources: Education Commission of States (2008); Levin (2009)

If you have questions about AIM or truancy please contact *Betsey Urbas* at 651-430-6130

Pete Orput

Washington County Attorney

Law Enforcement Center
15015 62nd Street North - P. O. Box 6
Stillwater, Minnesota 55082-0006
Phone: 651-430-6115
Criminal Fax: 651-430-6117
Juvenile Fax: 651-430-6184
Civil Fax: 651-430-6163
TTY: 651-430-6246
www.co.washington.mn.us

Equal Employment Opportunity /
Affirmative Action

Office of the Washington County Attorney

ATTENDANCE INTERVENTION MEETING

AIM

**An Early Intervention
Process to Address
Truancy and Encourage
High School Graduation
and Beyond.**



**Pete Orput
County Attorney**

ATTENDANCE INTERVENTION MEETING - AIM

SCHOOL ATTENDANCE IS THE LAW

Minnesota law requires that every child between 7 and 17 years of age must receive an education.

TRUANCY

All students who miss one or more class periods over 7 different days without a legal excuse are considered “habitual truants”.

Truancy is often an indicator for more serious underlying problems such as alcohol or chemical use, family problems, physical or mental health issues, peer pressure, bullying and/or child neglect.

Students who are habitual truants, and their parents, can be petitioned to court to address the truancy problem. However, a variety of interventions and services are offered prior to bringing a truancy case to court.

AIM

AIM stands for Attendance Intervention Meeting. This is the first step of progressive intervention and services offered to support families and children in keeping children in school and combating truancy.

The middle schools and high schools track students’ attendance. When a student between the ages of 12 – 17.5 has missed one or more class periods on three different days without a lawful excuse, they meet the definition of “continuing truant”. The schools notify the County Attorney’s Office when they have a “continuing truant” student. The County Attorney’s Office then sends the student and their parents a letter inviting them to attend the AIM meeting.



The AIM meeting is sponsored by the Washington County Attorney’s Office and is held October through May from 6:00 – 7:00 p.m. two times per month at two different locations:

Government Center
14949 62nd Street North
Stillwater, MN 55082

Cottage Grove Service Center
13000 Ravine Parkway South
Cottage Grove, MN 55016

The AIM meeting is designed to send a strong message to students and their parents about the pitfalls of continuing to truant, as well as the importance of high school graduation and beyond.

The truancy court process is explained including what actions the court can take directing the behavior of the students as well as their parents. This information is given in an effort to motivate the parents and student to seek services to avoid court and correct the problems resulting in the unexcused absences. Resources for services are provided to the parents and school officials are also present to answer questions.