

Youth Advocate Programs – Truancy Advocate Specialist (TAS)

Program Description, Requirements, and Job Duties

Program Description

Youth Advocate Programs, Inc. (YAP) has developed a flexible Truancy Intervention Program model that is adaptable to the specific needs of urban, suburban, and rural schools. Currently the agency is implementing the program throughout Allegheny County at all educational levels. The agency has the capability and willingness to work with students at the highest risk of school failure and those with the most complex needs. Court-involved juveniles, special needs youth, and students residing in low-income housing are included in the population served. These students may be:

- At high risk of expulsion or suspension
- Failing in school due to problems at home
- Presenting behavioral problems
- Returning from Juvenile Detention
- Truant
- Experiencing school phobia/bullying issues
- Involved in substance abuse
- Emotionally or developmentally challenged

Requirements

- Bachelors or Associates Degree in Psychology, Counseling, Social Work, or a related field preferable **OR** 60 credits towards related degree with 3 years paid experience working with youth
- The ideal candidate must be extremely organized and possess excellent communication and interpersonal skills. Must be professional, flexible, and have the ability to work independently.

Duties include, but are not limited to:

- Daily direct face-to-face interaction with clients and/or caregivers and suggesting,
- implementing, and transferring behavioral therapeutic skill/strategies with the
- purpose of permanently reducing specific truant issues
- Transporting clients to and from school and throughout the community (on an as-needed basis)

- Checking in on clients in school throughout the day, meeting as needed with school staff, conducting community searches for missing clients (and returning them to school)
- Weekly after-school appointment with clients to engage in Academic Support activities as well as Community Linkage activities
- Attending local magistrate and juvenile court hearings involving current cases
- Tracking/collecting data with regards to truancy (e.g. attendance, grades, contacts)
- Researching and linking appropriate community outlets to caregiver(s) and clients of cases as needed

To apply for this position, please forward cover letter, resume, and three references (two must be professional) to Caroline Colella at ccolella@yapinc.org