

Causes and Contributors to Truancy and Excessive Absenteeism

	Interior (subjective)	Exterior (objective)
Individual	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • School phobia • Fear for physical safety (threatened by individual or gang) • Don't like getting up early • Behind on school assignments • Worried to show signs of abuse • Obligated to protect or care for family • Need to fit in with truant group • Dislike/disinterest in school • Low competence, self-efficacy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Psychiatric symptoms of anxiety or depression • Learning disabilities • Use of drugs and/or alcohol • History of poor attendance • History of poor school performance • Poor social skills • Frequent somatic complaints • Oppositional or conduct problems
Social/ Collective	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Family Attitudes</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • School attendance is not critical • "I never graduated and I'm OK" • Fearful/intimidated by school • Parents not successful in school • Belief that long vacations in the school year don't disrupt learning <p style="text-align: center;"><u>Peer Attitudes</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • "Nothing will happen anyway" • Pressure to skip or stay home • Questioning authority <p style="text-align: center;"><u>School/building Attitudes</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • "It's a family problem" • Legal system takes too long or is ineffective – no control • "We're the only ones that care" • The family should know how much of a problem this is 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Poverty • Racism/sexism • Lack of law enforcement resources • Lack of school resources • Poor communication among stakeholders. (medical, school, legal) • Budgetary problems • Family isolation • System gaps, lack of continuity

Quadrant 1 (upper left) : thoughts, feelings, unique experiences of the student

Quadrant 2 (upper right) : what we see and observe in the student

Quadrant 3 (lower left) : cultural context of the family, school, or student peer group

Quadrant 4 (lower right) : environmental context, "the system"