

"If Kids come to us from
strong, healthy
functioning families, it
makes our job easier. If
they do not come to us
from strong, healthy,
functioning families, it
makes our job more
important."
- Barbara Colorose



How is truancy defined and how does CDE determine our truancy rates?

- Truancy is reported to the California Department of Education (CDE) as 3 unexcused absences or 3 unexcused tardies over 30 minutes.
- In 2013-2014 MJUSD's truancy rate reported by CDE was 17.04%.
- State Average was 31.14%.

How does MJUSD define truancy?

- After 9 or more unexcused absences, the school will refer the case to our Student Attendance Review Board (SARB).
- The parent must be “cited” into SARB by the Truancy Officer, PASS Officer or me.
- We currently have approximately 2.61% (251) of our students that are habitually truant.

Who sits on the Student Attendance Review Board? (SARB)

- Chris Reyna, Yuba County Office of Education, SARB Chair
- Jolie Carreon, MJUSD, SARB meeting facilitator.
- Ann Watkins, Probation, Truancy Officer
- Erich Runge, Child Protective Services
- Shannon Secrest, Children System of Care
- John Floe, Sutter-Yuba Mental Health
- Debbie Watson, SARB secretary from MJUSD

What types of services does SARB provide our families?


- Quick school enrollment
- Arranging transportation
- Referral to counseling through Mental Health, Harmony Health or Victim Witness.
- Referral to Parenting Classes
- Referral for school tutoring
- Referral to Saturday School
- Referral for Homeless Services
- Referral to CPS for intervention
- Failure to abide by the contract results in an order to see Judge Givens in juvenile court. Parents may be fined up to \$489.00 per child.


Amy's Story





Meet “Amy”

- A mom was cited into SARB for her 9th grade daughter. While in at the SARB hearing, she brought her young daughter, “Amy.”
- It was found during this hearing in January, that Amy, age 6 (almost 7 in March) had never been to school. Mom said she couldn’t get Amy her shots.
- After making several phone calls to find out a date a time to get the needed immunizations, we also made calls to determine what school had an opening this late in the year.
- Transportation was set up immediately to transport her to school as her school of residence was at capacity.

- 
- Amy didn't have any school clothes, and because she had "stable" housing, she didn't qualify for clothing through our homeless grant.
 - I contacted Rob Gregor who gave me Wal-Mart gift cards from his school donations to purchase warm clothing and shoes for Amy to start school.
 - Bobbi and I went shopping for Amy.
 - Amy only attended 78 out of 180 days of kindergarten last school year.
 - Because Amy missed school after she was enrolled, the SARB contract was violated, and mom was served with an Infraction Complaint and ordered to see Judge Givens.

- 
- Judge Givens ordered Amy's mom to get her enrolled at her school of residence, Ella, before the start of the 2014-2015 school year. The case was continued to determine if the parent would be fined \$489.00.
 - This school year, Amy was enrolled in 1st grade at Ella. She was present the first day of school.
 - We review all SARB cases monthly. Because Amy missed over 10 days of school by October, 2014, a home visit was done.


- 
- During the home visit, it was found that the family had been evicted from their home and took residency in a travel trailer parked in the driveway of a “friends” home in Johnson Park’s attendance area.
 - The 13 absences were from lack of transportation to Ella School. Mom wanted Amy to stay at Ella because she loved her teacher so she was transporting Amy to school when she had enough gas for her vehicle.
 - Transportation was contacted and we were able to use an existing route to transport Amy to Ella School so she wouldn’t have to transfer.


- 
- Amy has not missed a day since transportation was set up and is at grade level or approaching grade level in every standard. She will be promoted to 2nd grade next year.
 - Amy loves school and because attendance has improved dramatically, the fine was “waived” for this school year.
 - Amy has a younger brother, that will start kindergarten next year. Paperwork has already been hand delivered to mom to make sure he starts school on time. 😊



Meet “Becka”


- While doing home visits, Bobbi and I saw one of our mom’s who is on a SARB contract for 3 of her older children, walking down North Beale Road to the city bus stop.
- After stopping and speaking with her, it was found that her youngest daughter, age 6, was not enrolled in school. She was dressed in clothing that was too big and shoes that wouldn’t stay on her feet.


- 
- Becka's mom explained that she tried to get her enrolled at Cedar Lane at the beginning of the year; but they "were full." (Mom did not follow through with enrollment at another school site).
 - I transported Becka and her mom to Ella School where we completed the enrollment packet. Transportation was set-up to take Becka to and from school.
 - Since they were living in the local motel, I contacted our homeless department for school clothes and supplies.

- 
- Bobbi drove the new shoes and clothing to the hotel so Becka could have something to wear on *her* first day of school in October.
 - Since Becka has been enrolled at Ella School (122 days), she has only missed 5 days for being ill. She has only 1 tardy.
 - Becka is happy and according to her mom, "Loves school and never wants to miss."
 - Mom has been mandated by Judge Givens to attend Parent Project parenting classes in lieu of paying a \$1400.00 fine for her other 3 children who are on SARB contracts.

Meet Logan and Bella

- Parents were put on a SARB contract two years ago despite living around the corner from the school.
- This school year, both Logan and Bella missed school for chronic lice.
- Lice medication, clothing and food were brought to the home in hope to rid the children of lice and get them to school.
- Over 20 home visits were done by the truancy officer, Bobbi and I.
- Multiple CPS reports were made as the home was unkempt and a limited food in the house.

- 
- Logan's teacher emailed me often to say he was not in school.
 - During one home visit in November, the parents would not respond but children's voices were heard inside the home.
 - YCSO, Ben Martin was called to the scene for a welfare check of the children.
 - Children were found hiding in the home with the uncle and father.
 - The only food in the home was old ketchup.
 - CPS was asked to come out by YCSO.
 - The children are now in foster care as parents work on their drug addiction.



Amy, Becka, Logan and Bella's story is not unusual. It takes the effort of many to get our truant students to school.

We have **138** students that are habitually truant in grades K-5 and are currently on SARB contracts.

We have over **50** habitually truant teens in grades 6th-8th and another **63** in grades 9-12.

If we want to live in a safe and thriving community, we must get **our** children to school so they have hope of a happy life.

Once we get our students to school, they must feel safe and successful.

"Every child deserves a champion: an adult who will never give up on them, who understands the power of connection and insists they become the best they can possibly be."


- Rita Pierson, Educator





How do we provide safe and a conducive learning environment for our students?

**POSTIVE BEHAVIOR
INTERVENTION AND
SUPPORTS (PBIS) IS ONE
WAY!**



PBIS is research based and studies have shown that when implemented with fidelity, 80% of students respond to Tier I.

Denae Dennis is our District PBIS Coach

PBIS

- PBIS is a school-wide SYSTEM *not* a program. The system or FRAMEWORK helps establish the culture determined by staff and students.
- The framework is comprised of intervention practices, organization for establishing social culture, and intervention and supports needed for students to achieve academic and social success.
- Students and staff have a true understanding of the expectations and work together.
- This approach leads to less stress for teachers, more time for teaching and more time for administrators to support teachers in the classroom.



◉ THE PBIS TEAM ESTABLISHES:

- ❖ A clear set of positive expectations and behaviors
- ❖ A common purpose and approach to discipline (minor and major offenses)
- ❖ Procedures for teaching the expected behaviors
- ❖ A reward system to encourage positive behavior
- ❖ A support system for students that need interventions (TIER II and TIER III).

Why do we have to teach our students how to behave?

- School and home is *very different* for our students.
- We can't ASSUME students know our expectations/beliefs...never assume! 😊
- Even in the working world, all bosses have different expectations. We need to know the expectations to be successful.
- Being praised for doing well and working hard is motivating for most humans.

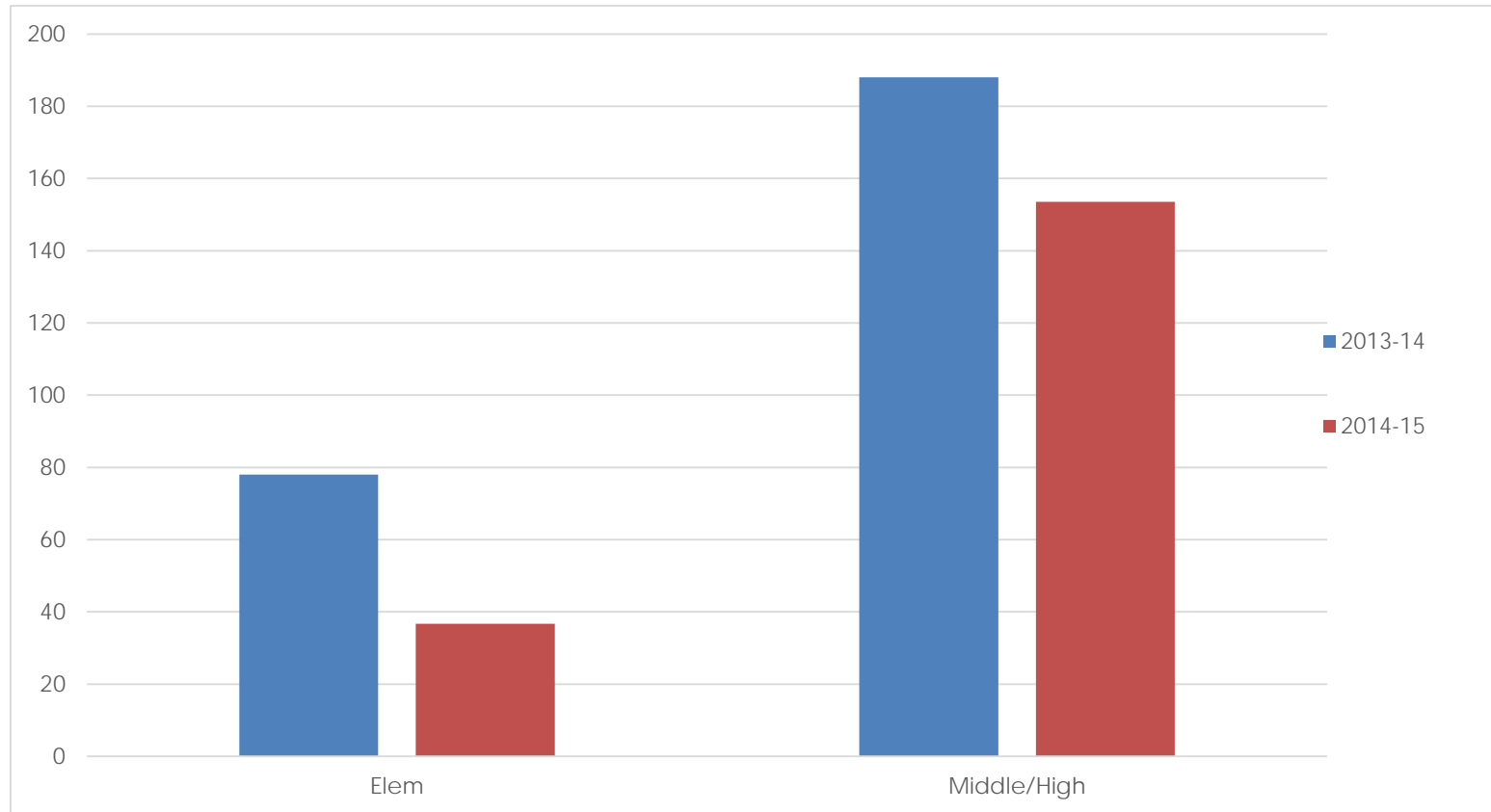


PBIS Schools in MJUSD

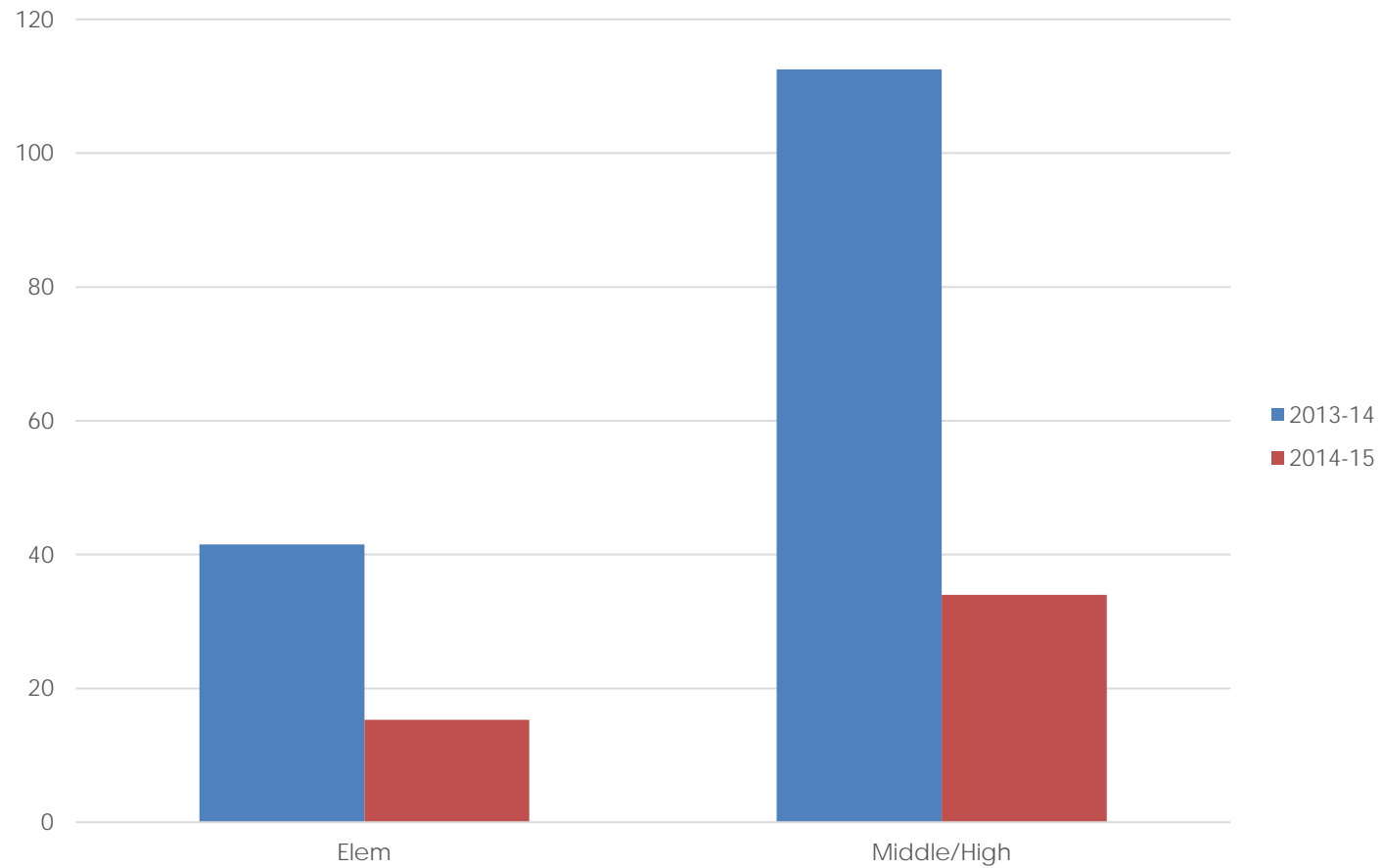
- Johnson Park Elementary
 - Cedar Lane Elementary
 - Linda Elementary
- McKenney Intermediate
 - Yuba Gardnes
 - Lindhurst High
 - Marysville High

Schools with PBIS

Out of School Suspensions



In School Suspensions



- MJUSD has 9 more schools that will be implementing PBIS next school year.



Remember: everyone in the classroom has a story that leads to misbehavior or defiance. 9 times out of 10, the story behind the misbehavior won't make you angry. It will break your heart.

– Annette Breaux