

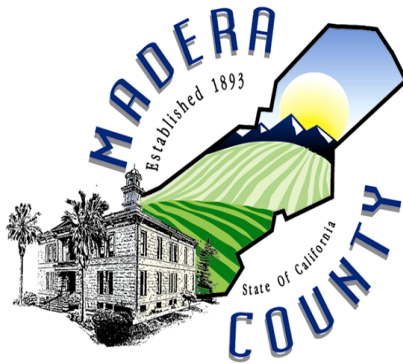
Madera County Probation Department

Stop Truancy Opportunity Program

**Mid-Year
Performance Report
July- December 2004**

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Summary

The Stop Truancy Opportunity Program (STOP) is in its fourth year of operation. This mid-year report includes data from a time period beginning on July 1, 2004 and ending on December 31, 2004. Eight participating Madera County Schools included Dairyland Elementary, Enterprise Secondary, Liberty Junior High, Martin Luther King Junior High, North Fork Elementary, Oak Creek Intermediate, Thomas Jefferson Junior High and Wilson Middle.

**Table 1.
Number and Percent of Participants by School**

Participating Schools	Number	Percent
Dairyland Elementary	2	1.1%
Enterprise Secondary	7	4.0%
Liberty Junior High	7	4.0%
Martin Luther King Jr. High	48	27.1%
North Fork Elementary	15	8.5%
Oak Creek Intermediate	27	15.2%
Thomas Jefferson Jr. High	45	25.4%
Wilson Middle	26	14.7%
Total	177	100%

I. Participant Demographics

At the midpoint of the 2004-2005 school years, the total student population tracked by schools participating in STOP was 177 (shown in Table 1). The majority of the participants during this performance period were Hispanic (53.1%) or Non-Hispanic Whites (42.9%) (Table 2).

**Table 2.
Number and Percent of Participants by Ethnicity by School**

Participating Schools	African American	Asian	Hispanic	Native American	Non-Hispanic White	Total
Dairyland	0	0	1	0	1	2
Enterprise	0	0	4	0	3	7
Liberty	0	0	4	0	3	7
Martin Luther King	3	0	39	0	6	48
North Fork	1	0	1	2	11	15
Oak Creek	0	0	1	0	26	27
Thomas Jefferson	1	0	34	0	10	45
Wilson	0	0	10	0	16	26
Total	5	0	94	2	76	177
Percent	2.8%	0.0%	53.1%	1.1%	42.9%	100%

Over fifty-six percent (56.5%) of participants were males and 43.5% were females (Table 3).

Table 3.
Number and Percent of Participants by Gender by School

Participating Schools	Female	Male	Total
Dairyland	1	1	2
Enterprise	3	4	7
Liberty	3	4	7
Martin Luther King Middle	22	26	48
North Fork	6	9	15
Oak Creek	11	16	27
Thomas Jefferson	19	26	45
Wilson	12	14	26
Total	77	100	177
Percent	43.5%	56.5%	100%

II. Program Statistics

The program placed no participants on probation for truancy offenses during this performance period (Table 4). However, five participants were placed on probation for truancy the previous year and are still being tracked by the STOP probation officers. These five participants make up 2.6% of the total participant population (N=177). One of the five participants violated the terms of probation.

Table 4.
Participants' Probation Status by Semester

	1st Semester	
	Number	Rate
Placed on probation for truancy offense	0	0%
Violated terms of current probation	0	0%
Completed probation	0	0%
Successfully completed community service	0	0%

**Table 5.
Number and Percentage of Students Given and Completing
Restitution and Community Service by Semester**

	1 st Semester	
	Number	Rate
Given court ordered restitution	0	0%
Successfully completed restitution	0	0%
Given court ordered community service	0	0%
Successfully completed community service	0	0%

No students were given court ordered restitution or community service during this performance period (Table 5). The program only had five participants placed on probation for truancy during last years reporting period. As there is not a victim in these types of cases, restitution is not ordered. Truancy offenders had been previously court ordered to completed community service, however as of 2003, we no longer able to refer juveniles to community service in the City of Madera. Community service is still a viable dispositional option in the City of Chowchilla and Eastern Madera County.

Participants who did not proceed with the program left due to reasons shown in Table 6.

**Table 6.
Reasons for Leaving the Program by Semester**

	1 st Semester
Moved to another city or state	4
Transferred to another school	7
602 W & I, wards	4
Other	3
Total	18

Table 7.
Participants' Arrest Rates Prior to and After
STOP Referral By Type of Offense

Offense Type	1 st Semester	
	Number	Rate
Arrested prior to STOP referral		
Status offense	0	0%
Felony offense	0	0%
Misdemeanor offense	0	0%
Total	0	0%
Arrested after STOP referral		
Status offense	0	0%
Felony offense	3	2%
Misdemeanor offense	0	0%
Total	3	2%

The program annually tracks participants' arrest, incarceration and probation violation rates, while specifically identifying if a participant's arrests, incarcerations, or probation violation occurred before or after referrals to the STOP. Tables 7 and 8 show the participants' arrest and incarceration rates for the first semester.

Table 8.
Participants' Incarceration Rates Prior to and After
STOP Referral By Type of Offense

Offense Type	1 st Semester	
	Number	Rate
Arrested prior to STOP referral		
Status offense	0	0%
Felony offense	0	0%
Misdemeanor offense	0	0%
Total	0	0%
Arrested after STOP referral		
Status offense	0	0%
Felony offense	3	2%
Misdemeanor offense	0	0%
Total	3	2%

The increase in the arrest and incarceration rates can be attributed to the intensified supervision of the participants by program officers as the school year progressed. The arrest and incarceration rates are low in comparison to rates at the County level. The increase in these rates for post-referral STOP participants can be viewed as the results of positive intervention and prevention services being administered to deter further truancy and crime among this group of juveniles.

Table 9.
Number and Percentage of Students at
Each Truancy Level (N=177)

Steps	Mid-Year	
	Number	Percent
1	177	100.0%
2	47	25.8%
3	17	9.3%
4	10	5.5%
5	8	4.4%

The STOP uses a step sequence to determine students' level of truancy. At Step 1, the student has 1 to 3 unexcused absences and a letter is sent to the parents notifying them of the student's truant behavior. At Step 2, the student incurs a fourth unexcused absence at

which time another notification is mailed to the parents. A meeting between the probation officer, the parents, and a school official soon follows. At Step 3, a fifth unexcused absence occurs, the District Attorney mails a third notification to parents, and a required Truancy Mediation Team Meeting is requested for students and parents to attend. At Step 4, a 6th unexcused absence occurs and a School Attendance Review Board (SARB) meeting is held. At Step 5 (the final step), the 7th unexcused absence occurs. The student is referred to court as a habitual truant and formal probation is requested. One participant had a complaint filed with the District Attorney against his parents as per Penal Code section 272.

Table 9 shows the number of participants reaching each step sequence by mid-year and year-end. One hundred seventy-three participants in STOP were truant at enrollment, had a letter sent home notifying their parents of truant behavior, and are at least Step 1 participants. Percentages shown in Table 9 are based on a total of 182 student records. There were thirteen missing records.

III. School Statistics

At the time of this annual report, 177 participants are on file for which academic data and attendance data were available. Table 10 shows that school attendance rates for Fall 2004 were at 94.8%, a slight increase of 0.3% from the fall of the previous year (94.5% in the fall of 2003). The Fall 2004 average GPA for the STOP participants was 1.58, nearly identical to the average GPA from the fall semester of the previous year (1.60 in the fall of 2003).

Table 10.
Mean GPA's and Attendance Rates by School

Participating Schools		Mean GPA	Attendance Rates
		Mid-Year	Mid-Year
Dairyland	(N=2)	1.51	94.8%
Enterprise	(N=7)	0.91	98.4%
Liberty	(N=7)	1.02	97.2%
Martin Luther King	(N=48)	1.50	92.2%
North Fork	(N=15)	2.62	96.7%
Oak Creek	(N=27)	1.40	94.8%
Thomas Jefferson	(N=45)	1.60	97.2%
Wilson	(N=26)	1.51	93.2%
Total	(N=177)	1.58	94.8%

Table 11.
Number of Students Suspended and Total Days of Suspension per Semester by School

Participating Schools	Number of Students Suspended	Total Days of Suspension
	Semester 1	Semester 1
Dairyland	1	1
Enterprise	3	10
Liberty	4	17
Martin Luther King	18	66
North Fork	2	9
Oak Creek	10	53
Thomas Jefferson	12	103
Wilson	7	33
Total	67	292

To measure STOP participants' behavior, the program tracks the number of students suspended and the total days of suspension during each semester. A total of 67 students were suspended in Fall 2004 for a total of 292 days. The total number of students suspended was 12 fewer than in the pervious fall (79 in the fall of 2003) but the number of days was comparable to the previous fall (289 days in the fall of 2003).

IV. Participants' Background

Family dynamics can be an important factor in a student's behavior. Therefore, the program attempts to more exactly understand truant students' behavior by investigating the home environments of individual students. However, this investigation was conducted on a self-report basis and at the students' discretion, so this information may not be fully reliable.

Table 12.
Number of Family Members Involved in the
Criminal Justice System by School

Participating Schools	Family member incarcerated	Family member on parole	Family member on probation	Annual Total
Dairyland	1	2	2	5
Enterprise	1	0	2	3
Liberty	0	2	0	2
Martin Luther King Middle	2	0	1	3
North Fork	3	0	2	5
Oak Creek	0	0	4	4
Thomas Jefferson	0	0	0	0
Wilson	3	3	5	11
Total	10	7	16	33
Percent	5.1%	3.6%	8.2%	16.9%

Table 12 shows the number of participants' family members that were incarcerated, on parole, and on probation. Thirty-three participants (16.9%) had family members who entered the criminal justice system during this performance period.

Table 13.
Number of Students Participating in Other Programs and Services by School

Program / Service	Dairyland	Enterprise	Liberty	MLK	North Fork	Oak Creek	Jefferson	Wilson	Total
Eligible for Free/ Reduced Lunch	7	4	3	30	3	5	9	12	73
Previous Therapy	0	2	0	6	1	3	1	0	13
Referred to Mountain Area Clinicians	0	0	0	0	14	9	0	0	23
Referred to Madera Co. Clinicians	0	1	0	9	0	0	4	1	15
Referred to Boys and Girls Club	0	0	0	0	0	27	0	0	27
Family History with CPS	3	12	5	23	3	11	15	12	84

Table 13 shows STOP participants' involvement with other programs and services. Most notably, over a third (47.4) had a history from their family with Child Protective Services. Also, over a third (41.2%) was eligible for a free or reduced lunch.

V. Conclusion

The fall student attendance rate has remained high at 94.8% indicating the program's effectiveness in preventing truancy. Approximately 90% of the students remained in Steps 1 or 2 of the STOP Sequence, indicating that probation officers and clinicians are providing effective services at these levels and that the early intervention and prevention measures of the program have been effective in limiting the number of participants being referred for court action. Student GPAs for this mid-year analysis were comparable to those from last fall as the number of students suspended decreased.

Following the completion of the second semester in May 2005, fall data will be compared with data from the spring to further analyze the effectiveness of the Madera Probation Department's Stop Truancy Opportunity Program.

