

## **Special Court Judges Association of Pennsylvania**

### **Appearance before Senate Education Committee**

**12 May, 2025**

#### Topics of Discussion – Title 24 and Truancy in Our Schools

There are basically four core topics that we would like to concentrate on...

1. The need to prioritize truancy from the very beginning of “compulsory school age”
  - Increase focus on elementary students, and establish early guidelines
  - Attendance Improvement Plans (AIP) and mandated parental participation
  - Early action – we cannot allow for 30, 40, 50 absences before action
2. School identification of underlying, contributing factors leading to truancy
  - Student/Parent mental health
  - Socio-economic circumstances of family
  - Obstacles to learning within the school, such as bullying and confrontation
3. Ease of Student mobility
  - District to district movement to avoid truancy actions/prosecution
  - Brick and mortar exit to cyber school to avoid truancy
4. Non-monetary penalties and deterrence
  - School based penalties – required academic community service for students and school-based community service for parents. Payment plans are not a deterrent.
  - Allow for more serious graded offenses for repeat offenders. An offense graded as a misdemeanor 3 offense could allow for Court of Common Pleas, Probation Services and Children/Youth Services involvement.