

2025-2026 SCHOOL YEAR

Impact

REPORT



**STUDENT ENGAGEMENT
ALLIANCE**

FORMERLY TRUANCY INTERVENTION PROJECT



TRUANCY INTERVENTION PROJECT IS NOW **STUDENT ENGAGEMENT ALLIANCE!**

For more than three decades, Truancy Intervention Project has helped Georgia students overcome barriers to school attendance through legal advocacy and support.

As our work deepened, we recognized that truancy intervention reflected only one part of what we do. Our programs have expanded to address the root causes of absenteeism, strengthen student engagement, and promote systemic change.

Our new name represents the full scope of our work and our belief that students need more than intervention. They need allies.

Visit StudentEngage.org to learn more!

OUR MISSION

Empowering Georgia students to grow and thrive by combating chronic school absenteeism and removing barriers to learning.

OUR VISION

To transform lives and communities by ending chronic school absenteeism in Georgia.

OUR VALUES

Integrity • Justice
Support and Empowerment
Collaboration and Community • Innovation and Purpose

See. Engage. Advocate.



Welcome, ALLIES!

Dear Friends,

In our organization's 35-year history, our commitment to Georgia's children and families has never wavered. If we could look back at this moment another 35 years from now, I believe we'd see a defining turning point marked by growth, reflection, and transformation.

The 2025–2026 school year was just the beginning of this next chapter, and already there is so much to celebrate, from new partnerships and programs to growing momentum statewide. We are just beginning to see the change that's possible when we stand together as allies, tackling absenteeism at its roots and relentlessly advocating for our students' potential.

Anyone on the front lines of this work will tell you that our students want to learn and belong. The barriers behind chronic absenteeism are complex, but they are surmountable if we step in with real solutions. By engaging our kids and advocating for their needs, we rewrite what's possible for their futures.

Last year, our volunteer attorneys generously gave 360 hours — up by over 100 hours from the year before! — and every interaction left an indelible mark on a child's confidence. We worked with 57 elementary and middle school students to address truancy risks early. We stepped in to support 138 families with necessities so that simple hardships never stand in the way of a child's education. With two new Student and Family Support Specialists now on our staff, we'll be able to assist even more kids and families.

The impact will be felt far beyond the individual. When more students access the education and stability they deserve, our neighborhoods are safer. Our workforce is more resilient. And Georgia communities are more prosperous. As we look toward the future, we are excited to embrace our new identity as Student Engagement Alliance. This name more fully reflects our vision and the broader work we are undertaking to empower Georgia students and create pathways to thriving futures. While our name is changing, our commitment remains steadfast.

I am deeply grateful to our dedicated staff, board of directors, volunteer attorneys, school and court partners, funders, and community supporters. Your investment in this work allows us to stand alongside families, advocate for students, and pursue meaningful change.

As we enter this next chapter, we invite you to continue walking with us. Together, we can strengthen communities, remove barriers, and ensure that every student has the opportunity to thrive.

With gratitude,



Tonya Malone Ferguson
Executive Director
Student Engagement Alliance



Impact

SY 2025-2026

SNAPSHOT

BY THE NUMBERS

57

Students Assisted with Early Intervention

341

Individuals Supported by our Holiday Gift Drive

42

New Truancy Clients Served

2,859

Student Incentives Provided by TIP

138

Households Supported with Basic Needs

360

Hours Donated by Volunteer Attorneys

COMMON REASONS FOR ABSENCES

1

Family Issues or Emergencies

2

Illness

3

Transportation Barriers

4

School Environment Concerns

TOP SERVICES PROVIDED



Guidance and Attendance Strategies



Material Assistance



Referrals and Supportive Services

FAMILY SURVEY

100%

understood the impacts of absences and tardies.

95%

felt informed about their child's attendance.

82%

felt empowered to communicate with school.

82%

said TIP engaged with them throughout the year.

Behind every data point is a family navigating real-world challenges. We uncover the underlying barriers and build the trusting relationships needed to solve them.

CLIENT SUCCESS STORY FROM CRISIS TO CONNECTION

A mother of four was unresponsive to school outreach as attendance concerns mounted. When our team reached out, we discovered a mother in crisis: heavily pregnant, hospitalized, and feeling overwhelmed and unheard by the school system.

⚠️ Barriers

High-risk pregnancy hospitalization, communication breakdowns, and financial stress on essential household needs.

⚙️ Solutions

Parent advocacy, school mediation, baby supplies, food assistance, and holiday support.

🎓 Outcome

After facilitating an open line of communication with the school, the family's circumstances were met with empathy and support.



MEET ADWOA "ADJ" AWOTWI

Volunteer

20+ Years of Servant Leadership

A leader in the Atlanta legal community and General Counsel at Locum Tenens, Adj has consistently made time to champion students and families. Her impact is felt throughout the community; in addition to serving on TIP's Board of Directors, she generously gives her time to other Atlanta nonprofits. Adj takes pride in being a living example for the young people she represents, showing them what is possible with an education.

2025-2026 WAS A BUSY YEAR AT TIP!

HIGHLIGHT *Reel*

AUGUST

GA Appleseed Training
School Social Worker Meetings

SEPTEMBER

Strategic Plan Launch
New Partnership: Hollis Innovation Academy

OCTOBER

Lollipops for Learning

NOVEMBER

Raised \$3,550 on Giving Tuesday

DECEMBER

Annual Holiday Gift Drive

JANUARY

Brookview Elementary Attendance Celebration
Atlanta Bar Foundation Grant

FEBRUARY

First Small Groups Kick Off
Toomer Elementary Perfect Attendance Luncheon

MARCH

New Partnership: SIS Counseling
Georgia Department of Education Meeting

APRIL-MAY

Perfect Attendance Challenge



CLIENT SUCCESS STORY

PAVING THE WAY

When an elementary student was referred to TIP with 7 absences and 19 tardies, the surface issue looked like a lack of routine. The reality was more complex. His family was navigating a sudden relocation, leaving his parents juggling long work hours, separate households, and confusion over school bus eligibility.

Barriers

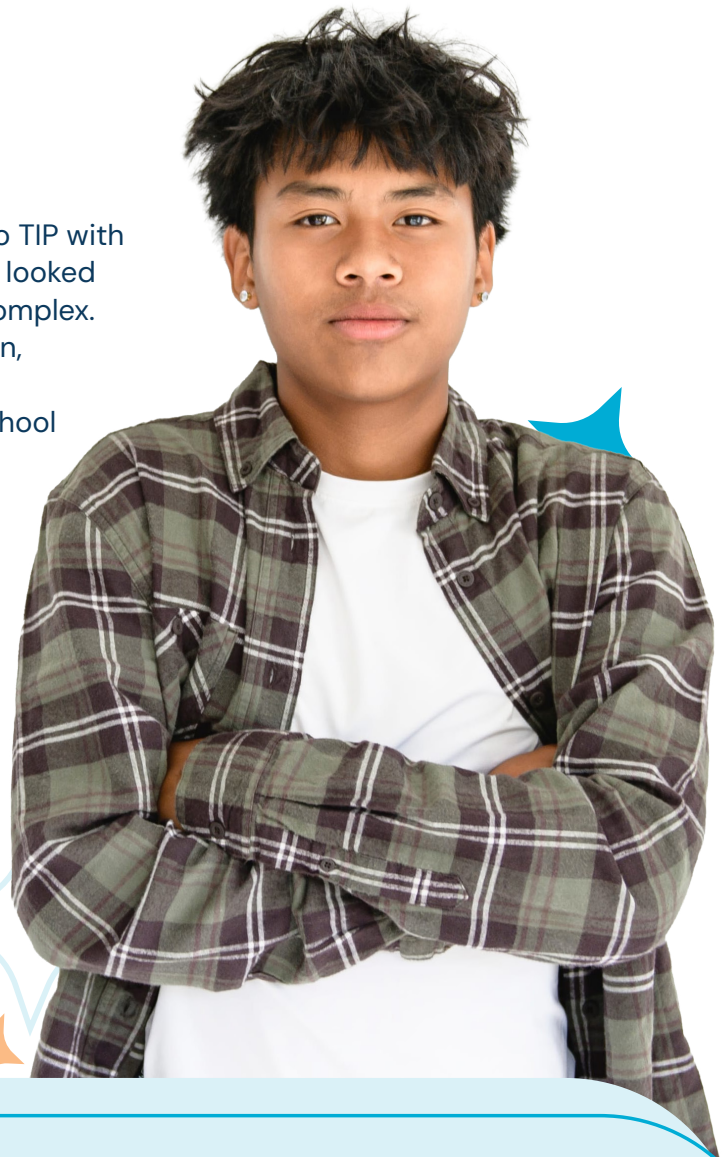
Family relocation, transportation, and conflicting work schedules.

Solutions

Direct district advocacy, transportation coordination, and holiday family assistance.

Outcome

Zero absences or tardies from March through the end of the school year, earning the student a spot in our Perfect Attendance Raffle.



Partner MEET SIS COUNSELING

When a student struggles with attendance, mental health challenges often play a role. Through our new partnership with SIS Counseling, we're providing free therapy for students and families! Together, we're helping clients access specialized trauma support, dedicated individual and group counseling, and summer group sessions. This partnership is special: SIS Counseling was founded by Sarah Serluco, a former TIP intern and employee. We couldn't be happier to welcome her and clinician Jessalyn King into this mission!



SARAH SERLUCO

JESSALYN KING

THANK *You*



FOR YOUR SUPPORT IN 2025-2026!

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Rene Williams



CLIENT SUCCESS STORY

STRENGTH THROUGH SUPPORT

With five elementary students, a high schooler, a toddler, and another baby on the way, a devoted single mother was doing her best to juggle multiple responsibilities and challenges. School attendance often fell to the wayside, resulting in patterns of absenteeism.

Barriers

Large family logistics, ongoing pediatric medical needs, past chronic absenteeism, and isolation.

Solutions

Continuous family-school engagement, baby and expectant-mother supplies, and holiday assistance.

Outcome

Four children reached 2 weeks of perfect attendance. Mom connected with school resources to build a lasting, supportive partnership.

“We’re meeting families where they are. We can’t save the world, but we do what we can.”

Arianna Villegas
Director of Programs



CLIENT SUCCESS STORY

BRIDGING THE DIVIDE

When a student with chronic post-concussion headaches was referred for attendance concerns, we realized differing perspectives between the family and administrators had eroded trust and communication.

Barriers

Medical symptoms, tension between family and school, and fear of sharing personal information.

Solutions

School-family liaison, medical crisis support, food and holiday assistance, and parental coaching.

Outcome

Mom became an empowered advocate, successfully communicating with the school to secure resources.



OUR Leaders

Guided by experience and a shared commitment to our mission, our leadership team works together to strengthen our organization and the communities we serve.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Gunn & Dial, LLC

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Student & Family Support Specialist

Arianna Villegas

Director of Programs

Isis Wilson

Student & Family Support Specialist

Adrian Wright

Director of Operations

"If you want to help your community, I don't think there is anything you can do that is more valuable than helping a child get an education."

Josh Swiger
Board Chair



MAKE AN *Impact*

EVERY CONTRIBUTION MAKES A DIFFERENCE.

Your tax-deductible financial support helps provide critical programs, resources, and services that keep kids connected to school and on track for success.

WAYS TO DONATE

- Make a one-time gift
- Give monthly
- Sponsor a student
- Make a tribute gift
- Donate through your workplace
- Give in-kind
- Shop our Amazon wish lists
- Leave a legacy

Share your time, skills, and experience to make a difference. Every volunteer plays a role in creating meaningful opportunities for students.

WAYS TO VOLUNTEER

- Represent students and families navigating truancy charges
- Support literacy efforts
- Volunteer at special events
- Assist with school-wide attendance incentives
- Assist with holiday gift drive
- Administrative assistance

Stay plugged in and share in our impact. By connecting with us, you join a growing network of advocates dedicated to opening doors for Georgia's youth.

WAYS TO CONNECT

- Become a corporate or community partner
- Sign up for our newsletter
- Follow us on LinkedIn, Instagram, and Facebook
- Attend our events
- Spread the word about our mission!

"Clients may otherwise be going it alone through an intimidating, complex process with serious potential impact on their lives. Standing with them in one of their most vulnerable moments is a gift, and as lawyers in a serving profession, it's a gift we have a professional responsibility to give."

Darcy McLean
Volunteer and
Director of Pro Bono
& Community
Engagement at
Alston & Bird





STUDENT ENGAGEMENT ALLIANCE

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