

# Truancy Intervention Project

*every presence  
matters.*



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**Annual Report**  
SY 2024-2025





There's a story behind every absence.  
*We're helping students rewrite them.*

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## Meet T.R.

When 13-year-old T.R. came to TIP in April 2024, she had 28 unexcused absences and was facing housing instability, chronic health issues, and a lack of routine. TIP worked closely with her family to create a personalized plan that included basic needs support, health guidance, and referrals to community resources.

By fall, T.R. had become co-captain of her school's dance team. Her attendance improved dramatically, and her truancy case was closed for good.

# From the Executive Director

Dear TIP Community,

When I joined TIP as Executive Director in October 2024, I was proud to return to the organization where my journey began over two decades ago. TIP shaped my career and my calling, and I'm honored to help shape its future. Though the challenges facing our youth are complex, our mission remains clear: to replace punishment for absenteeism with compassion and ensure every student has the support they need to thrive. As we approach TIP's 35th anniversary in 2026, we are more committed than ever to building lasting, systemic change for Georgia's students and families.

We're stepping into this next chapter with real momentum. Georgia's passage of SB123 recognizes that chronic absenteeism is a community issue, not just a school problem. Our bold new strategic plan is underway, sharpening our focus and expanding our reach. And with passionate staff, strong board leadership, and deepening partnerships across school districts and communities, TIP is positioned to grow our impact in meaningful ways. Together, we're proving what's possible when we show up for kids—because every presence truly matters.

With gratitude,


*Tonya Ferguson*

Tonya Malone Ferguson  
Executive Director



## 2024 Family Survey Snapshot

 **91%**  
Families say TIP  
made it easier to  
**communicate with  
school staff.**

 **82%**  
Families now feel  
**more informed**  
about their child's  
attendance.

 **77%**  
families rated **our**  
**support** as "very"  
or "extremely"  
**supportive.**

## Did You Know?

**1 in 5 Fulton County students is chronically absent.**

In Georgia, chronic absenteeism means missing 10% or more of enrolled days.

# Education & Prevention

Our **early intervention programs** **address the root causes of absenteeism** **before they lead to legal consequences.**

We empower families with knowledge, resources, and support, recognizing that behind every missed day of school is often a deeper challenge—like mental health struggles, housing instability, or unmet basic needs. By meeting families where they are, we help students stay connected to school and reclaim their path to success.

## TIP's Impact 2024-2025



57

families assisted with early intervention



230

holiday gifts distributed



1,324

student incentives provided



138

households supported with basic needs

## What We Provide:

- Attendance **incentives** like treats, holiday gifts, and student recognition events
- Case management to **address the underlying causes** of chronic absenteeism
- Wraparound support for **basic needs** like food, clothing, and transportation
- Education and workshops for **families, schools, and partner organizations**
- Community **referrals** connecting families to **long-term, stabilizing support**

## Did You Know?

The average age of a student referred to TIP is 9 years old.



# Access to Justice

TIP provides **pro bono legal representation and advocacy** for students experiencing chronic absenteeism, ensuring that vulnerable youth have access to legal rights and support.

## TIP's Impact 2024-2025



10

truancy cases supported  
by volunteer attorneys



250

hours donated by  
volunteer attorneys

# Systemic Change

TIP is working to scale our impact, developing replicable models, toolkits, and best practices that schools statewide can adopt.

## Recent Highlights

- Presented at the **2025 Juvenile Court Association of Georgia (JCAG) Conference**
- Partnered with **Georgia Appleseed** to deepen our knowledge of navigating school discipline tribunals and supporting students with special education needs
- Joined child welfare professionals from across Georgia at **The Summit: Georgia's Child Welfare Conference** to connect, exchange ideas, and strengthen collaboration

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## Did You Know?

TIP has worked to break generational cycles rooted in inequity and shift the narrative around absenteeism since 1991.

# Thank you for your support in 2024-2025!

## Our Community Partners

ALSTON & BIRD



Fulton County  
Juvenile Court



## Corporate & Foundation Donors

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Turning barriers into breakthroughs:

*Each success is a step toward lasting change.*

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## Meet C.B.

C.B. was 14 when he was charged with truancy after missing 58 school days. Few realized he was battling bullying, housing instability, and severe anxiety. TIP partnered with his family to uncover the full story and build a plan for healing and progress—including a school transfer, free counseling, and trauma-informed advocacy.

With the right support, C.B. found his voice. He completed his truancy course with a thoughtful presentation on the value of education. By January 2025, his attendance had improved, and his case was closed.

## 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.



*Every Presence Matters.*

### Truancy Intervention Project Georgia

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