EVALUATION RESULTS
SONOMA COUNTY PROBATION
June 2018

Keeping Kids in School Program
Since Fall 2015, Sonoma Probation has been operating the Keeping Kids in School (KKIS) Program. This grant-funded program is aimed at reducing truancy and preventing juvenile delinquency.

Chronic school absence and truancy have been linked to a wide range of negative childhood and adult outcomes including increased risk of juvenile delinquency and violent behavior. Funding for the program also covered an evaluation of the program conducted by WestEd.

Key findings for KKIS participants:
• They had very little involvement in juvenile justice system.
• Student, family, and school needs associated with missing school decreased by 5%.
• Family functioning improved 38%.
• Attendance rates for those who received case management services increased 4.7% or 8.5 days in the school year.

Key findings about the program implementation:
• While schools were already addressing truancy and chronic absenteeism, KKIS helped strengthen efforts by having program staff at the school focused specifically on these issues.
• Students, guardians, and school administrators reported that the program improved student and family relationships, increased access to community resources, and supported improved attendance for students.
• Program staff often acted as a “neutral party”, “mediator”, or “connector” to help engage and serve families in the program.

With initial, positive outcomes during the first two years of program implementation, there was sufficient interest from schools, the community and WestEd to continue the program. Additional grants and funding have been allocated and the program will continue and expand during the 2018-2019 school year. WestEd will conduct further study of the program in the hope that the model can be a blueprint for other communities interested in addressing truancy and chronic absenteeism.

For more information, see the full evaluation report.