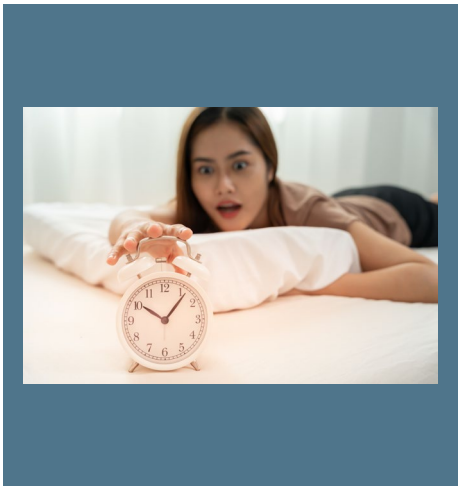
ATTEND

Information and FAQ's

What is ATTEND?
ATTEND is an IU13 MH program providing an intensive evaluation with possible recommendations for in-home services. Our team of highly trained positive professionals provide psychoeducation about the brain and anxiety, in home behavioral support, and challenges- all which help students and families overcome school refusal behaviors (SRB).



ATTEND professionals believe school refusal behaviors (SRB)are symptoms of deeper issues, typically anxiety. Our purpose is to treat the underlining root causes of attendance refusal behaviors by identifying & addressing the function of behavior. In addition, family patterns, mental health, school communications & other areas are also addressed. We aim for small changes that will impact behaviors over time effectively helping the student and family. It takes time and requires patience.

What is the purpose of the ATTEND program?
The ATTEND purpose & plan of action captures 4 major components and encourages all participants to *stay the course*.

Stay the COURSE
Connect to **O**thers
Utilize mind/body connection for **R**egulation
Stretch with strategies (CBT)
Enlist community provider assistance (when needed)

Our team wholeheartedly believe that to battle anxiety and SRB, a successful program will provide education, connection to supportive persons in the home, school, and community, work on strategies to develop coping skills, use

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movement to increase emotional regulation, and seek assistance when suitable.

Who is on the ATTEND team?

ATTEND School Psychologist – The family and student meet with and discuss concerns, history, and other related information with the school psychologist to complete detailed history and understanding of the SRB. The School Psychologist completes a full report and presents findings and recommendations at the Evaluation meeting. At this meeting, the school team, with parents, decide whether or not to proceed forward with the recommendations. If ATTEND is recommended and embraced as a support, then the following may be part of the plan.

ATTEND Case Management (CM)- A CM is responsible for communicating to all parties, family, district, school, agency, and others.

The CM:

- Coordinates, organizes, & initiates an ATTEND mtg 1/month to discuss celebrations, current status, goals, and next steps.
- Provides consistent, clear, & informative information to parents
- Addresses crisis mental health needs
- Visit/check-in/meet with students in school or home
- Coordinates with team members

ATTEND Mental Health Worker (MHW)- A MHW is responsible for daily (or otherwise assigned) motivation & support in the home.

The MHW:

- Works in the home on a regular basis as determined by the team
- Communicates regularly with the student &/or parents
- Meets the student & parents & assists/supports with the morning routine
- Communicates with the CM & ATTEND team
- Encourages the student to reach their goals

What happens when ATTEND is involved?

The ATTEND team works with the school and family to develop interventions based on the function of behavior. This plan varies greatly as each child is

unique with differing needs. Throughout the process, it is typical for the ATTEND team to advocate for change, modifications, and adjustments that may be a bit uncomfortable or atypical.
The school personnel may become uncomfortable when asked to make accommodations & allowances of usual interventions. Perhaps flexible days, schedule changes or accommodations, interpersonal relationship building, and patience.
The family may become uncomfortable when challenged to make small adjustments at home to the routine, with communication, when changing responses, or in other ways.

What can we expect with the ATTEND program?
Depending on the level of need and recommendations, packages vary. Typically, a school district makes a referral and initiates an extensive evaluation. Through this process, the function of the SRB is identified, and a general intervention plan is recommended to the entire team at a meeting. The team reviews the evaluation, recommendations, and together discusses whether or not ATTEND is the appropriate intervention. If ATTEND is part of the intervention, many times that includes:

- Mental Health support in the home- often daily
- Mental Health Parent Coaching support in the home, - about once/week
- Case Management support monthly.

Will my child's absences be held against us?
ATTEND is an attendance program, referred & funded by districts. Participating in ATTEND means parents along with school personnel are doing their best to help the student in regard to school attendance. Consequences, such as fining, for truancy is discouraged while ATTEND intervenes, but ultimately each school district determines their course of action.

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