

ATTEND Program

Tier 3 Assessment & Intervention Service Overview

Service Population: The ATTEND program is available to school-age students who are exhibiting signs of school refusal behavior (SRB). SRB is defined as “child-motivated refusal to attend school and/or difficulties remaining in class for an entire day. It’s an inability to maintain age-appropriate functioning [as it relates to] school attendance or adaptive coping to school related stressors” (Kearney & Albano, 2018). Services are available to students ages 5-21 who are placed in regular and special education classes, as well as those provided with gifted programming or a 504 plan.

Mission: The ATTEND Program offers a comprehensive, evidence-based service to assess and intervene with SRB and related anxiety problems. The goal is to identify the function of the SRB and work with the school team and family on the identification, support, and training of evidence-based interventions.

Team: The ATTEND team consists of social workers, mental health workers, and school psychologists. For more information on the program, please contact Dr. Matthew Ferchalk, Supervisor, at matthew_ferchalk@iu13.org.

District Identifies Possible Student Referral

LEA and school-based team contacts ATTEND to discuss details of referral.
Dr. Matthew Ferchalk (Supervisor): matthew_ferchalk@iu13.org or 717-947-1509

STEP 1: Referral Form

ATTEND Program provides referral form & language for PTE/RE or IEP revision, if applicable.
LEA sends completed referral form & PTE/RE to alaina_newcomer@iu13.org
District sends most recent IEP, PBSP, ER/RRs, 504s, attendance from current and previous school year, SAIPs, history of interventions
Evaluation begins when the referral & signed PTE are received. *If the student is not currently identified through special education or a 504 service agreement, please discuss the case with the ATTEND Supervisor for next steps.

STEP 2: ATTEND Evaluation

The ATTEND School Psychologist begins the evaluation process including an FBA and School Refusal Behavior assessment. This involves scheduling interviews, observations of the home and school (if applicable), rating scales, and other recommended assessments as needed.
The finished ATTEND evaluation and recommendations for the student, the home, and the school are sent to the district to be incorporated into the school district’s own paperwork process.

STEP 3: Evaluation Meeting

The ATTEND team will coordinate with the school and the family to schedule a meeting to review the results and appropriate recommendations.

STEP 4: Approval for ATTEND Services

If LEA and team agree to recommendations that include ATTEND services, the type of service and amount of time are discussed at the meeting. Alaina Newcomer will send the SUPPLEMENTAL CONTRACT to the district for approval. Services begin when the supplemental contract is signed and returned, and appropriate revisions are made to school district paperwork (such as an IEP or 504 plan).

STEP 5: Intervention

ATTEND team begins providing the agreed upon services. Services may include regular home support, morning routine assistance, family support, regulation skills, facilitating community support, & therapeutic techniques (CBT, exposure therapy) to build resilience and improve school attendance. The ATTEND Social Worker schedules meetings with the school team and family every 4-6 weeks to review progress.