



**ADEPT – the Auburn Development of Engagement and Prevention of Truancy project
Funded by the NYS Division for Criminal Justice Services**

With the ADEPT project, the Partnership for Results and its collaborators from public education, law enforcement, mental health, and health agencies, will work to prevent and significantly reduce truancy among at-risk students ages 7 – 15 in the City of Auburn, NY.

The project design is closely aligned to the constituent elements of proven truancy intervention initiatives outlined by OJJDP (Tool Kit for Creating Your Own Truancy Reduction Program) and current evaluation data in this field. Auburn Enlarged City School District (AECSD) will be the platform for this proposed JJDP Formula Grant project – Auburn Development of Engagement and Prevention of Truancy (ADEPT). AECSD student support and data management staff will identify youth at-risk of truancy and chronically truant, participate in student and community awareness programming, assist in enhancing parental involvement, and provide an appropriate venue for the assessment and counseling of students.

The 5 Auburn PD School Resource Officers (SROs) currently working in all 8 of AECSD's campuses (K-12), will provide age appropriate, law-related education classes that focus on truancy. This will assist students to make informed decisions about attending school and to understand the consequences of non-attendance. For the caseload of 20 youth targeted for assessment and counseling services who are at high risk of truancy or actively truant, the 5 SROs will facilitate adjustment to school and will monitor behavior using a specialized law enforcement database developed by the Partnership. A 6th Auburn PD SRO, proposed under the aegis of this grant, will focus exclusively on these 20 youth, providing home visits, family, and community-based preventive interventions to increase attendance and reduce the risk of offending (or re-offending). This will be done in collaboration with a clinician from the Partnership.

The target population (at-risk students ages 7 -15) will be served in the schools and the community by a range evidence-based programs and services currently operating in Auburn, including: primary and secondary after-school programs, parenting skills workshops (Guiding Good Choices), a school adjustment initiative (Resilience Project), and an initiative to assist TANF families with work sanctions. The Partnership will assist these programs to serve, to the maximum extent possible, students and their families with school attendance and engagement issues. For the caseload of 20 youth at high risk of truancy or actively truant (60 annually), the Partnership will provide: a full-time clinician to conduct comprehensive, multi-disciplinary assessments (using the Partnership's validated Well-being Assessment Instrument); counseling, as appropriate, to address mental health, substance abuse, and other co-occurring problems (using Cognitive Behavioral Therapy, an evidence-based treatment modality); and integrated service plans with referrals for unmet service needs for the clients and their families. The Partnership will also coordinate the project's inter-governmental collaborative activities, track the progress of the assessment and service caseload, evaluate the project implementation and outcomes using its inter-agency databases, and lead efforts to sustain the project after the JJDP Formula Grant funds are expended.