



THE YORK DISPATCH
York County's Afternoon Paper

YorkCounts looks at truancy, drop-out rates

ANDREW RUSONIS *For The York Dispatch*

Updated: 11/02/2009 10:48:47 AM EST

YorkCounts will present the results of a study on student truancy and drop-out rates at 6:30 p.m. Monday, Nov. 9, at Dover Area High School.

The Stay in School study, co-chaired by Bob Woods and Don Gogniat, details local programs designed at keeping children in school, as well as strategies for combating truancy.

The meeting will be open to the public and is not restricted to residents of the Dover Area School District.

YorkCounts undertook the study because it's important to encourage school attendance "in order to produce a workforce that is much more skilled, said Dan Fink, communications director for the nonprofit, which has examined a number of quality-of-life issues in the county.

Dover school board member Rob McIlvaine, who served on the Stay in School committee, agreed. He said that school districts need to do a better job at developing stimulating curricula and that there needs to be greater encouragement from the business community.

"We need a greater dialogue about expectations between employers and school districts," McIlvaine said.

Dover Superintendent Robert Krantz said the district's current drop-out for grades 8 to 12 is between 5 and 6 percent, but the district is always looking for ways to reduce the rate.

"We're all trying to get into the zero percent range," Krantz said.

A YorkCounts Town Hall: "Kids, Truancy and a County at Risk" will be held 6:30 p.m. Monday, Nov. 9, in the auditorium of Dover Area High School, 46 W. Canal St. The

event is free and open to the public. To register, send an e-mail with your name and phone number to events@yorkcounts.org. For more information, contact Dan Fink at 650-1460 or dfink@yorkcounts.org, or visit YorkCounts' Web site at www.yorkcounts.org/events_info.asp?id=14.

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