

NORTHERN VIRGINIA AREA VISITING TEACHER
GROUP

OPINION POLL OF CAUSES FOR UNLAWFUL NON-ATTENDANCE
January to May 1952

To: Members of the Northern Virginia Visiting Teacher Group
Mrs. Louise D. Rigdon, President

From: The Research Committee, - Mrs. Josephine Stockton, Mr.
Ernest R. Worrell, Miss Baccus, Hazel Van Anden, Chairman

Subject: A quantitative analysis of the polled opinion of the causes
for alleged unlawful non-attendance in the public schools of
Northern Virginia

Scope: Time: Four Months
Area: Nine Counties - Two Cities
Personnel: Fifteen Visiting Teachers

Sampling: Cases of pupils referred to the Visiting Teacher for
investigation because of alleged unlawful non-attendance.

Purpose: An attempt to classify the underlying causes in the pupil's
environment that result in placing him in the position of
being referred to the Visiting Teacher as an unlawful non-
attendant in a public school classroom.

An attempt to design a self-imposed program of in-service
training for the Visiting Teachers of this area which may
improve professional practice for dealing with the dominant
causes underlying non-attendance.

Categories: The following were arbitrarily selected and used as a basis
for this opinion poll:

I. HOME ENVIRONMENT -

Broken Home	Unsupervised Home
Overcrowded Home	Foster Homes
Boarding Homes	Diseased Parents
Alcoholic Parents	Overprotected Children
Immoral Homes	
Over Disciplined Homes	

II. SCHOOL ANTIPATHIES -

Necessity for schooling youth not appreciated by parents,
pupil, and/or neighborhood
Parent indifference toward school and/or the welfare of his
child
Pupil dislike for school
Pupil and/or parent antagonism toward school program; toward
professional personnel
Pupil unchallenged by classroom work
Pupil overwhelmed by classroom work

Opinion poll of causes for unlawful non-attendance

Habitual truancy and habitual irregularity
Dropouts at 16 years of age.
Dropouts at parent's request under Section 22-253.1 of the
Compulsory Attendance Law at 14 years of age or over

*** and the like

III. WEATHER AND/OR TRANSPORTATION -

Lack of clothing, lunch, books, supplies
Walking or riding distances
Feuds, - family or pupil
Weather neurosis of phobias
Family planning to meet bus schedules non-existent

*** and the like

IV. PARENT EXPLOITATION OF SCHOOL AGE CHILDREN

Work at home, - care for children, house work, farm work,
errands, for parent protection, to supplement the family
income
Employment - seasonal work, occasional work, pre and post
school hours work beyond the physical endurance of the child
Home nursing - family illness of extended duration
Family support, - parents believe that children must earn to
support parents and younger sibs

*** and the like

V. UNEXCUSED ABSENCE -

Illiteracy in the home
Parent refuses to accept responsibility
Parent ignorant of his privileges as a parent and a citizen
Indifferent and fails to protect his child against truancy,
kidnapping, etc.

*** and the like

SUMMARY OF THE REPORTS FOR JANUARY, FEBRUARY, MARCH AND APRIL 1952

	<u>Catagories</u>	<u>#</u>	<u>%</u>
1.	Home Enviornment	376	30
2.	School Antipathies	368	30
3.	Weather-Transportation	134	11
4.	Parent Exploitation	209	17
5.	Unexcused Absence	151	12

Opinion poll of causes for unlawful non-attendance

REPORT BY COUNTIES, CITY, AND VISITING TEACHERS

County City	Visiting Teacher						
Alexandria	Mrs. Harris	14	10	0	0	5	29
Arlington	Miss Baccus	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Mrs. Shenker	6	6	0	0	1	13
Culpeper	Mrs. White	21	41	2	6	22	92
Fairfax	Mrs. Hatch	34	33	2	6	13	88
	Mrs. Rigdon	24	9	0	1	2	36
	Miss Southerland	16	29	7	9	9	70
	Mrs. Stockton	14	21	15	2	2	54
Fauquier	Mrs. Embrey	39	30	13	9	8	99
Loudoun	Mrs. Cady	22	42	21	48	9	142
Madison	Mr. Worrell	30	25	5	8	2	70
Orange	Mrs. Neihl	49	25	60	55	50	247
Prince William	Miss Payne	10	9	1	6	0	26
Warren-Rappahannock	Miss Van Anden	58	27	6	45	7	143
Winchester	Miss Grove	39	61	2	14	13	129
<u>9 / 2</u>	<u>15</u>	<u>376</u>	<u>368</u>	<u>134</u>	<u>209</u>	<u>151</u>	<u>1238</u>
		30%	30%	11%	17%	12%	100%

Respectfully submitted,

Hazel Van Anden, Chairman