



See **WhyTry** in Action

Reengaging Students Through Resilience

How Tulare County Is Improving **Attendance, Behavior, and School Connection**



By focusing on prevention and resilience, schools can address the root causes of disengagement, not just the symptoms.

Across California, schools are facing growing challenges with chronic absenteeism, student disengagement, and behavioral issues. **Tulare County Office of Education** is addressing these challenges through prevention programs that help students build resilience, strengthen relationships, and reconnect with school. TCOE is implementing practical strategies that help students overcome barriers such as:

Trauma and instability - Peer pressure and negative influences - Academic frustration - Lack of connection to school - Hopelessness about the future

Why **Resilience Matters**

Many attendance and behavior problems are symptoms of deeper challenges students face. Students need skills and relationships that help them navigate obstacles and stay engaged in school. Resilience programs help students develop skills such as:

- Emotional regulation
- Decision making
- Positive peer influence
- Connection with supportive adults

These skills help students overcome barriers and build confidence in their ability to succeed.

The Three Drivers of **Student Engagement**

The programs used in Tulare County focus on three key drivers that influence attendance and behavior:

- **Relationships** - Students engage when they feel valued and supported by adults.
- **Relevance** - Students need to see how school connects to their future goals.
- **Resilience** - Students must learn skills that help them overcome challenges and make positive choices.



When these three factors are present, students are far more likely to attend school, stay engaged, and build positive relationships.

Programs Used in Tulare County

Prop 47 Attendance Initiative

A countywide initiative focused on improving elementary attendance and school engagement.

Strategies include:

- Districtwide attendance competitions
- School engagement events such as Resilience Rallies
- Activities that strengthen student connection to school

These efforts help build excitement about school while reinforcing positive attendance habits.



Children of Promise Project (COPP)

Supports students in rural and underserved communities through:

- WhyTry social-emotional learning curriculum
- Mentoring and relationship building
- Community experiences and student events

Program goals include:

- Reducing absences and discipline issues
- Increasing student GPA
- Improving self-esteem and emotional regulation
- Reducing substance use risk factors



TAP Program

A partnership between Tulare County Probation and Tulare County Office of Education CHOICES Program

Program structure:

- Small groups of 4–8 students
- 10 sessions per semester
- 30–60 minutes per session

“We’ve worked with tier-two kids—students who need extra support—and WhyTry has been pivotal in helping them understand their choices and consequences, especially in high-risk environments.”

“Having one trusted adult in a student’s life can make all the difference. WhyTry helps educators be that person while giving students the tools they need to succeed—not just in school, but for life.”

Renee Solis – SEL Specialist,
Tulare County Office of Education

Want to Learn More?

Visit the WhyTry booth to access free resources and learn how schools across the country are using resilience-based strategies to improve student engagement.

Scan the QR code to access the toolkit and **enter our conference drawing**.
You’ll also be entered to **win a WhyTry Curriculum Pilot and Training** for your school or district.

