



May 3, 2013

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As requested, the purpose of this note is to give you an update on the NISD pilot of the Campus Monitor system at two campuses since October 2012.

Steven J. Bassett
Assistant Superintendent
Budget & Finance

First of all, I want to thank you and your staff for the work done so far. You have always been responsive and helpful. More importantly, the Campus Monitor system consistently works as advertised. This past April, we found an average of 37 students at Jay HS and 14 students at Jones HS that had been marked absent, but their badges were reading on campus. This accounted for 34% of all absences at Jay HS and 24% of all absences at Jones MS.

In order to quantify the direct impact of the system on campus attendance, we created an "L" code that is input into the attendance system when the student is found by using the Campus Monitor, and the student's attendance is verified by a campus professional. To this point, the utilization of the "L" code has been minimal at the campuses. The average is 1.4 students per day at Jay HS and 2.6 students per day at Jones MS. However, attendance at both campuses is up significantly compared to the other secondary campuses. While there are certainly many variables that affect campus attendance, the daily use of the Campus Monitor in the attendance reconciliation process has been a factor in the 0.54% increase at Jay HS and the 0.72% increase at Jones MS. When compared to district wide data, the increase at Jay HS is 0.60% higher than all high schools combined. The same comparison for Jones MS is also 0.60% higher than all middle schools combined.

These numbers are very encouraging given the impact of the federal court case that was brought against NISD last fall. As you know, the court case had a negative impact on the numbers of students wearing the badges. Additionally, campus staffs were reluctant to make badge wearing compliance a priority given all of the negative press associated with the court case. Even though the percentage of students wearing the badges has been less than we hoped for, the resulting increases in attendance lead me to be very optimistic about the future of the program. We will check the attendance figures again at the end of the year, but I do not expect the results to change significantly. The ADA table is attached.

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As previously discussed, our formal evaluation of the pilot will include a survey of campus staff, students and parents. We hope to have those results soon.

Thanks! 

Steve Bassett

