

There is a successful truancy mediation program in Putnam County, administered by the Putnam County Educational Service Center (PCEC).

In 2004, the Putnam County Juvenile Court documented 82 cases of truant children in Kindergarten through the fifth grade that ended up in the court system because of the severity of the student's truancy. The court approached the PCEC about addressing this issue through a truancy mediation process, which would work towards resolving issues with families during in-school mediations, leading to better attendance and eliminating the need for a referral to court.

The program was built in the model promoted by the Ohio Commission on Dispute Resolution, and the Commission assisted with training and technical support (as it continues to do). Training for the initial group of truancy mediators was funded by the Supreme Court of Ohio's Dispute Resolution Section.

Since the truancy mediation process was instituted in five of the nine county school districts, the 82 court cases have fallen to only 6 cases coming out of those districts during the 2006-2007 school year.