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(Ty Chandler, WROC-TV)

They probably did use to feel that way. School Resource Officer Michael Marcano patrolled the city in a large van, looking for truants. "I've had this van filled two or three times in one day," he said. That was before the city's truancy budge was cut. Since then Officer Marcano hasn't had a reason to fill up his van. Without any signs of immediate consequences, Nixon Elian, 18, didn't think he had anything standing in his way.

"I got kicked out," said the former Edison Tech student. "Mostly I was doing the wrong thing, not going to school, skipping school when I was in school and just getting in trouble."

Trouble Mayor Duffy wants to avoid. He launched the Truancy Reduction and Intervention Program or TRIP. It is a collaborative effort between the Rochester City School District, the Rochester Police Department, Rochester Teen Court and Pathways to Peace.

"It's a start. It's a big step in the right direction," Mayor Duffy explained.

Elian said he cut all the time when he was at Edison, because he could. "I did it because I feel like it was easy for me to do it. So yeah I did it," he explained.

Elian said no one stopped him from walking out the door. He did it so many times; he wasn't allowed to come back. Now he is in the STAGE GED program at MCC's Damon City Campus with other kids who paid the price for skipping school.

"I was on probation and still was skipping and I already knew the consequences and what they were going to be," said Tremaine Wallace, 18.

Both Wallace and Elian said they would rather be in school now, but they believe the city will have to be a lot tougher if they expect kids to think twice about skipping school.

"It was easy," said Officer Marcano. "Now hopefully it won't be easy anymore. We're going to be out there."

Two School Resource Officers will be assigned to patrol the city for truant students during school hours. Other officers on duty will also be on the lookout for kids who look like they should be in school.