

Factors That Contribute To Truancy

- Lack of parent supervision and/or guidance
- Lack of familiarity with school attendance laws
- Single-parent households
- Parents with multiple jobs
- Families that lack affordable transportation or childcare
- Substance abuse
- Mental health issues
- Limited social and emotional competence
- Truant friends

The success of the truancy program depends on the full participation and cooperation of everyone involved, especially the parents. Parents promote the positive values that their children will follow. To help ensure success in school, it is very important that parents encourage and establish consistent study times, regular bedtimes, and punctual daily attendance.



Pursuant to the Michigan Compulsory School Attendance Law, MCL 380.1561, the child's parent, guardian, or other person in this state having control and charge of the child shall send the child to a public school during the entire school year from the age of 6 to the child's eighteenth birthday.

For more information, please contact :

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**Attendance + Education
= SUCCESS**

Tuscola Intermediate
School District
Truancy Services

**School Success
Leads to
Life Success**



Tuscola Intermediate
School District

**Working With
Schools, Parents &
Children To
Improve School
Attendance**

ATTENDANCE RESPONSIBILITIES



Why Truancy is a Community Problem:

- Truancy has been clearly identified as an early warning sign that students are headed for potential delinquent activity, social isolation, or educational failure via suspension, expulsion or dropping out.
- Truancy is connected to both lack of commitment to school and low achievement rates, which are clear risk factors for substance abuse, delinquency, teen pregnancy, and school dropout.
- High rates of truancy are linked to high rates of daytime burglary and vandalism.

Collaborative Effort Between:

Tuscola Intermediate School District
Tuscola County Area School Districts

Tuscola County Family Court

In Cooperation With:

Local Law Enforcement Agencies
Local Service Agencies



Teachers:

- ◆ Record and monitor accurate day-to-day attendance records for each student per district policy.
- ◆ Provide make-up work to students in a timely manner, as required per district policy.
- ◆ Teachers are encouraged to communicate with parents/guardians regarding pupil absences and the importance of regular attendance and punctuality.

School Administrators:

- ◆ Consult with pupils and/or parents of pupils who have attendance problems.
- ◆ Provide Parents with requested information about attendance.
- ◆ Work cooperatively with pupils and teachers to correct poor attendance.
- ◆ Refer truancy problems to the Truancy Officer at Tuscola Intermediate School District.

Parents/Guardians:

- ◆ Responsible for daily and punctual attendance.
- ◆ Exercise good judgment regarding the justifiability and appropriateness of all absences.
- ◆ Limit school absenteeism to an absolute minimum, other than health reasons.
- ◆ Notify the school when the student must be absent and support the reason with official documentation.
- ◆ Consult with the school in cases of attendance issues.
- ◆ Monitor the student's make-up work for timely completion.

Truancy Officer:

- ◆ Truancy letter sent to parent/guardian after receiving referral from the school.
- ◆ Contact with parent/guardian regarding attendance issues
- ◆ Undocumented absences will result in continued monitoring.
- ◆ No further action will take place if improvement is seen.
- ◆ Additional problems will result in a meeting at the school with parents, truancy officer and school personnel.
- ◆ Attendance contract will be signed by all parties.
- ◆ Continuing attendance issues will result in a referral to the court.
 - * Parent warrant for students age 6-10
 - * Student petition for students age 11-18

Students:

- ◆ Accept responsibility for being present and on time to all classes.
- ◆ Inform each teacher before necessary absences when possible.
- ◆ Get make-up work from the teacher, complete it and submit it in the required amount of time.
- ◆ Arrive at school on time.

