

There are 180 days in the school year.

Every day is important.

## Is YOUR child in school today?



Students who are not in school are more likely

- to:
- Use drugs and alcohol**
  - Engage in sexual activity**
  - Engage in criminal behavior**
  - Be retained & lose academic progress**

**REMEMBER:** Students who arrive late or leave early miss TEACHER INSTRUCTION!

### DOES YOUR JOB ALLOW YOU TO ARRIVE LATE OR LEAVE EARLY FREQUENTLY?

There is a **DIRECT** relationship between school attendance & high school completion

Students who drop out of high school are:

- **50% more likely to be homeless**
- **40% more likely to be on public assistance**
- **8 times more likely to go to jail**

YORK COUNTY  
**TRUANCY PREVENTION**  
INITIATIVE



The mission of the York County Truancy Prevention Initiative is to reduce the truant population in York County by establishing a protocol for improved communication, instituting a consistent response to this issue, and initiating interventions.

**TRUANCY:**  
Missing school for any part of the day without providing the school with an excuse note.

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Truancy FAQ's for Parent/Guardians of Middle and High School Students

**DID YOU KNOW...??**

**YOU CAN** make the difference.

**GET INVOLVED**  
in your child's education!

The York County Truancy Prevention Initiative is an initiative of United Way of York County in partnership with the York County Bar Foundation

**YORK COUNTY TRUANCY PREVENTION INITIATIVE**

800 East King Street  
York, PA 17403  
**717-771-3808**



[bradleys@unitedway-york.org](mailto:bradleys@unitedway-york.org)

<http://www.unitedway-york.org/york-county-truancy-prevention-initiative>



## Here is a list of **GENERAL LAWFUL** excuses (EACH SCHOOL DISTRICT IS DIFFERENT!!!)

- The child has an illness that is contagious
- Death of a family member
- Family emergency
- Child required to attend a court hearing
- Educational travel that the school approved BEFORE travel was taken.
- The child had a medical or dental appointment
- Authorized school activity

### **REMEMBER:**

An absence is ANY time missed from school, INCLUDING coming in late or leaving school early.

**ALL school districts have different truancy policies**

**CHECK WITH YOUR SCHOOL FOR MORE DETAILS!**



**NOTE:** Please consider scheduling medical appointments AFTER the school day to keep your child in school ALL day, every day.

## ANY QUESTIONS?

### WHO CAN WRITE AN EXCUSE NOTE?

Only a parent/guardian or licensed medical professional may write an excuse note; and only up to a certain point.

### HOW MANY NOTES CAN A PARENT WRITE FOR ILLNESS?

Ask your school for more details. Because the school is concerned about the health of your child, if the pattern of absences continues you will be asked to bring in a doctor's note. (**Remember, tardy and early dismissal included**).

### WHAT HAPPENS WHEN YOUR CHILD MISSES A SCHOOL DAY WITHOUT AN EXCUSE NOTE?

If your child misses any portion of a school day and no note is provided, the school will contact you via telephone, conference call or home visit to make sure you are aware of this absence and remind you to bring in a note.

### WHAT HAPPENS IF YOUR CHILD MISSES TOO MANY SCHOOL DAYS WITHOUT AN EXCUSE NOTE?

If your child misses too many days of school without an excuse, usually around three absent days you would receive a warning letter from the school. The letter will ask you to attend a meeting at the school, called a Truancy Elimination Plan meeting. It will also warn you that one more unlawful absence will result in an attendance hearing (court proceeding) with the Magisterial District Court. (But **ASK YOUR CHILD'S SCHOOL**, it varies from district to district)

### WHAT IS A TRUANCY ELIMINATION PLAN?

This is an opportunity for you to discuss the reasons for the absences with the school staff, your child, and community partners. You and the group will create a plan, called a Truancy Elimination Plan, to:

- Identify the reasons for the continuing absences,
- Look at your child's strengths
- Discuss consequences if absences continue, and
- Identify ways to prevent the absences from occurring in the future.

### WHAT HAPPENS IF YOUR CHILD MISSES 4 DAYS OF SCHOOL WITHOUT LAWFUL EXCUSE:

If your child has **FOUR** or more absences without an excuse note (REMEMBER: any combination of absence, tardy, early dismissal) then you, as the parent/guardian, will either be offered an alternative to fines **OR** receive a citation to attend a hearing at a Magisterial District Court.

### WHAT HAPPENS IF YOUR CHILD MISSES 6 DAYS OF SCHOOL WITHOUT LAWFUL EXCUSE:

When your child misses **SIX** or more days of school, and you do not provide excuse notes for those absences, the school is required— BY LAW — to report this to the Office of Children, Youth and Families. Children, Youth and Families will try to work with the family to provide resources that will help you and your family to get your child to school.



### WHAT CAN YOU DO AS A PARENT/GUARDIAN?

1. COMMUNICATE WITH THE SCHOOL! ☺
2. Provide the school with a written note to explain ANY absence from school **AS SOON AS POSSIBLE**.
3. **Ask for copies of excuse notes you submit.**
4. Contact the school and ask for a Truancy Elimination Plan meeting.

**NOTE: IF YOUR SCHOOL DOES NOT CONTACT YOU ABOUT A TRUANCY ELIMINATION PLAN, YOU CAN SET UP THE MEETING YOURSELF!**