



What is the Law?

Every child between the ages of 7 and 17 MUST attend school unless he/she has graduated. (MN Stat. 120A.22, subd. 5)

A student who is 17 MUST attend school unless the student is formally withdrawn from school by their parent or legal guardian. (MN. Stat. 120A.22 subd. 8)

School Attendance is mandatory by the state of Minnesota. Research related to school attendance tells us:

- Students who attend school receive higher grades
- Students who graduate high school have a greater chance at finding a job
- Regularly attending school leads to increased self-esteem and greater friendships

Continuing Truant-

Three unexcused absences on three or more days

Habitual Truant-

One or more unexcused absences on seven days or more

What happens if I miss school?

- 3 unexcused absences - The school sends home a notification letter
- 5 unexcused absences - The school will send home a second notification letter and a meeting will be set up with School Personnel or a County Truancy Social Worker
- 7 unexcused absences - The school files a truancy Referral with McLeod County Health & Human Services and a Truancy case is opened

MCLEOD COUNTY TRUANCY INTERVENTION PROGRAM

520 Chandler Avenue North

Glencoe, MN 55336

320-864-3144 Phone

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Students who are Truant from School are more Likely to:

- Engage in Criminal Activities
- Be Unemployed
- Abuse Drugs or Alcohol
- Risky Sexual Behaviors
- Greater Chance of Depression
- Greater chance of living in Poverty

MISSING 10% OF SCHOOL THROUGHOUT THE SCHOOL YEAR NEGATIVELY AFFECTS A STUDENT'S ACADEMIC PERFORMANCE.

What to Expect if Referred for Truancy?

- A truancy meeting will be held at school with the Social Worker, student, parent/guardian and school personnel.
- The student, parents, school staff and the Truancy Social Worker will create and sign the truancy contract.
- There will be monthly face to face meetings with the Truancy Social Worker at school and at home.
- Regular communication between the school, parent(s), student and the Social Worker will be necessary to ensure that the plan is being followed.
- The Truancy Worker will monitor attendance on a weekly basis.

Excused Absences:

- Family emergency
- Illness/Medical or mental health appointments (documentation may be required)
- Religious holidays

Unexcused Absences:

- Babysitting
- Child is not immunized
- Child's employment
- Missing the bus
- Not in assigned location while at school
- Oversleeping

Consequences for violation of School Attendance Laws

- Parents of the truant could be fined.
- Students age 12 and older could lose their driving privileges until their 18th birthday.
- Students could be fined up to \$100 or ordered to complete community work service hours.
- Parents could be required by the judge to deliver their child to school every morning.
- A student could be placed on probation supervision with the child staying in the home and school.
- A student could be placed under court-ordered house arrest.
- A student could be ordered to participate in counseling or therapy.
- A student could be ordered to complete a chemical dependency assessment/evaluation and ordered to follow recommendations for counseling, education, treatment and after care.
- A student could be ordered to attend School at a juvenile center or to attend summer school.
- A student may be placed outside of the home by the judge.