

HOW YOU CAN HELP YOUR CHILD ATTEND SCHOOL

- ❖ Stress the value of education and graduation.
- ❖ Attend parent-teacher meetings.
- ❖ Talk with your child about school, his or her friends, activities and report cards.
- ❖ Make a study area for your child at home and set a regular study time.
- ❖ Help with homework or ask the school about homework assistance programs.
- ❖ Help your child set goals for attendance.
- ❖ Encourage participation in supervised after-school activities.
- ❖ Set clear rules and consequences in a contract with your child.
- ❖ Don't ignore calls or letters from the school about truancy.
- ❖ Talk with your child about how to address the problem.
- ❖ If you need to, get help through Youth Assistance or other agencies.



Local Youth Assistance Offices

All in area code 248

Avondale.....	852-3716
Berkley.....	837-8102
Birmingham	642-4882
Bloomfield.....	341-5680
Brandon/Groveland.....	627-6445
Clarkston	623-4319
Clawson.....	655-4401
Farmington	489-3434
Ferndale	586-8700
Hazel Park.....	582-9125
Holly.....	328-3181
Huron Valley.....	676-8492
Lakes Area	956-5070
Madison.....	583-0848
Novi.....	347-0410
Oak Park.....	691-7579
Orion.....	693-6878
Oxford.....	969-5177
Pontiac.....	451-7549
Rochester	656-3558
Royal Oak.....	546-8282
South Lyon	573-8189
Southfield.....	746-7658
Troy	823-5095
Waterford.....	618-7383
West Bloomfield.....	592-1278
Central Office.....	858-0051
Volunteer Programs.....	858-0041

Sponsored by:

The Oakland County Circuit Court-Family Division
Local School Districts
Local Municipalities

Family Division Judges:

Hon. James M. Alexander	Hon. Cheryl A. Matthews
Hon. Martha D. Anderson	Hon. Eugene Arthur Moore
Hon. Mary Ellen Brennan	Hon. Elizabeth Pezzetti
Hon. Linda S. Hallmark	Hon. Joan E. Young

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Oakland County

Strengthening Families
Through Community Involvement

Educational Neglect and School Truancy

What Parents and Children Need to Know

**YOUTH ASSISTANCE OFFERS
FREE CASEWORK SERVICES
TO PARENTS WITH SCHOOL
TRUANCY CONCERNS.**

WHAT DOES THE LAW SAY ABOUT SCHOOL TRUANCY?

- ❖ School truancy is a violation of the State Compulsory Education Law requiring parents of children, ages 6 to 16, to make sure their attendance is continuous and consecutive for the entire school year.

WHAT IS SCHOOL TRUANCY?

- ❖ When a student does not have a valid reason for arriving late, skipping a class, missing a whole day or many days of school.
- ❖ When a child willfully and repeatedly is absent from school or other learning programs intended to meet the child's educational needs.

WHAT IS EDUCATIONAL NEGLECT?

- ❖ When parents/guardians neglect, or refuse to provide, proper or necessary education for their children.



EFFECTS OF SCHOOL TRUANCY

- ◆ Children quit school, limiting their career opportunities.
- ◆ Children become dependent on parents for income.
- ◆ Children are more likely to use alcohol and other drugs.
- ◆ Parents lose work time to attend court, counseling or parenting classes.
- ◆ Students have poor school performance.
- ◆ Increases the likelihood of trouble with the law, such as vandalism, shoplifting and burglary. (82% of prisoners are dropouts.)

POTENTIAL CONTRIBUTING FACTORS

- ◆ Family problems like divorce, substance abuse, domestic violence or illness.
- ◆ Chronic medical problems, or mental health issues of child or parent.
- ◆ Parents do not value education, or a family history of school dropouts.
- ◆ Learning problems.
- ◆ Parents' work schedules.
- ◆ Lack of family support systems.
- ◆ Family moves frequently.
- ◆ Lack of structure or reward system.

PARENT/CHILD CONSEQUENCES

If the school's efforts to prevent truancy are not successful, the following options can be used:

- ◆ A family can be referred to Youth Assistance for casework services and referrals to other programs or services.
- ◆ Students can be referred to the Oakland County Prosecutor's Early Intervention program.
- ◆ The Oakland Schools attendance officer can become involved and pursue court intervention.
- ◆ A District Court petition can be filed against the parents or guardians.
- ◆ A Circuit Court petition can be filed against the student or parent.
- ◆ A conference can be scheduled with a court referee to set requirements for attendance.
- ◆ If requirements are not met, the referee can refer a child to the prosecutor to face charges of school truancy.
- ◆ A judge can decide if the court will take jurisdiction over the child. Services may be ordered at a cost to the family.