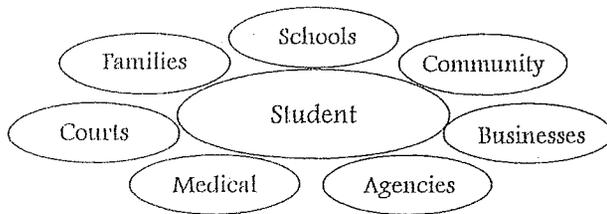


“Truancy has been labeled one of the top ten major problems in the country’s schools, negatively affecting the future of our youth. Excessive unexcused absences is a first indicator that a child is giving up and losing his way. Unfortunately, lack of direction often leads to the Juvenile Justice System or one who is disadvantaged in becoming a productive citizen.”

*Judge John C. Uhler,
York County Juvenile Court*

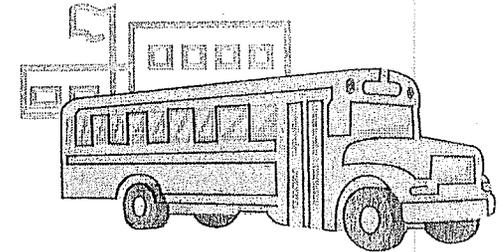
Truancy Response Group Mission Statement

To reduce the truant population in York County by establishing protocol for improved communication and consistent response to this population. This is a collaboration between families, schools, the medical community, agencies, and the Court.



If you have questions or concerns regarding school attendance, please call your school guidance counselor.

Truancy Prevention Tips For Parents



Working Together to Solve School Attendance Problems

Sponsored by the
York County
Truancy Response Group

Working Together to Solve School Attendance Problems

Every day, over 3,000 children miss school in York County. Children who regularly miss school are missing out on education that will affect their chances to become successful in life. They get behind in their school work, fail assignments, and get discouraged. They often drop out of school.

As a parent, you want the best for your child's future. You also have a legal responsibility to make sure your school-registered child attends school. If your child misses too much school, you risk being fined, losing custody of your child, or even being jailed. School attendance is serious business.

What you do as a parent can make a big difference in your child's life.

You can...

- Be timely and set a good example by making sure your child gets to school on time. When your child arrives late, he has to hurry to try to catch up to what he missed.
- Have a phone-in policy with the school to check on your child's daily attendance, or have the school call you when your child does not attend.
- Make sure your child knows that you don't approve of her missing school.
- Tell your child how important you think a good education is and that you want him to do well in school.
- Take an interest in your child's school and activities at school. Ask your child about her day.
- Plan a time for homework and help your child with homework when needed.
- Praise your child when he does well in school and other activities.
- Get to know your child's friends and classmates. Children need friendships. Lack of friends or friendship problems are reasons children do not want to go to school.
- Visit the school and meet with your child's teacher and other school personnel. They can tell you more about your child at school.
- If your child tells you she is "bored" at school, make an appointment to talk with her teacher(s) to find out what they see happening at school.
- Help your child to get help or tutoring with subjects that he is having trouble with.
- Help your child develop good study and work habits.
- Get involved with a school activity as a chaperone or parent helper.
- If your child makes excuses or "hates" school, listen to her to find out what the underlying problem is and then meet with the school.
- Have a regular bedtime and curfew for your child on school nights.
- Set an alarm clock in the morning allowing plenty of time without rushing to get ready and have breakfast.
- Ask your child to sign all needed school papers in the evening, check homework, and line-up backpacks and lunches. Rushing in the morning is hard on everyone.
- Talk to your child about the future and his goals for school and a career.
- Listen to your child when she tells you of a worry or problem she has at school. Remember, these fears are as real to her as yours are to you.
- Encourage your child to seek help with his problems at school rather than trying to figure out what to do all by himself. Remind your child of all the helpers he has - parents, teachers, guidance counselors, etc.
- Help your child learn to see herself as capable of solving problems. Help her practice ways to solve problems.
- Let your child see you handling job stress and parenting responsibilities in healthy ways.
- Take a parenting class or seek out counseling services as needed.

