What Can You Do!

Families are encouraged to call the school at any time to keep the school informed of the status of a child’s attendance or request work.

If your child requires to be out for any reason, please notify the appropriate school.

If you are taking a family trip, prior to that trip, an Educational Trip form must be turned into the school for approval by the building administrator.

All family emergencies must be described in detail to warrant approval for absence.

Communities are wise to be concerned. Students who miss school frequently are often unable to develop interpersonal relationships or gain the knowledge and skills they will need for future employment.

Please help us to build a stronger community through positive school attendance and healthy habits.

For more information, please contact your respective school district.

Franklin County School Districts

- Chambersburg School District
  435 Stanley Avenue
  Chambersburg, PA 17201
  (717) 261-3423
  www.chambersburg.k12.pa.us

- Tuscarora School District
  118 East Seminary Street
  Mercersburg, PA 17236
  (717) 328-3127
  www.tus.k12.pa.us

- Waynesboro School District
  210 Clayton Avenue
  Waynesboro, PA 17268
  (717) 762-1191
  www.wasd.k12.pa.us

- Greencastle-Antrim School District
  500 Leitersburg Street
  Greencastle, PA 17225
  (717) 597-3226
  www.greencastle.k12.pa.us

- Shippensburg School District
  317 North Morris Street
  Shippensburg, PA 17257
  (717) 530-2700
  www.ship.k12.pa.us

- Fannett-Metal School District
  14823 Path Valley Road
  Willow Hill, PA 17271
  (717) 349-7172
  www.fmsd.k12.pa.us
Today, truancy has become a major problem in this country that negatively influences the future of our youth and nationally costs taxpayers billions of dollars annually.

Truancy may be the beginning of a lifetime of problems for students who routinely miss school. Because these students fall behind in their school work, many drop out of school. Dropping out is easier than catching up.

Statistics that Warrant Concern

- Truancy results in a pattern leading to dropping out of high school.
- The 2010 U.S. Census Bureau report that 12.9% of the U.S. population did not graduate high school. Further, high school drop-outs earn an average 34% less than those that graduated.
- High school drop-outs are not eligible for 90% of the jobs in the current economy.
- The average dropout costs more than $200,000 in current dollars over the course of his or her lifetime due to government-funded social services expenditures and criminal justice costs.

Truancy Timelines

If it becomes necessary to discuss truancy issues regarding your child with you, the timelines below will be followed:

- Attendance letters are sent to indicate a concern when a child has missed school.
- A note from the parent/guardian must be turned in within 3 days of an absence to be excused.
- After 10 days of absences, a doctor’s note is required to excuse a child from school.
- Three (3) unexcused absences result in a citation.

Truancy Penalties

If your child is found to be truant by a local Magisterial District Judge, the following penalties could be assessed:

- Penalty for truancy violation can be up to a $300 fine to parent(s) plus court costs.
- Parents failure to pay can result in a term of imprisonment up to 5 days.
- At age 13, if parents have shown the court that they have done all they can to get their child to school, responsibility of fines and court costs can be changed to the student.
- For a first offense, a suspension of an operating privilege (drivers) can be incurred.
- Students may be required to fulfill community service hours.
- If the attendance problem continues, a referral may be made to the Franklin County Truancy Prevention Program or to the Franklin County Children & Youth Service.

Referral to Franklin County Children and Youth (C&Y) Service

If a child is 13 years or older, the Magisterial District Judge can court order the child to the Franklin County Truancy Prevention Program with a C&Y Caseworker assigned.

If a child is under 13 years of age, a referral can be made to the Franklin County Children and Youth Service Intake Unit and may result in opening a General Protective Services case with a C&Y Caseworker.

The C&Y Caseworker will provide the following services:

- Monitor school attendance on a daily basis;
- Work as a liaison to link parent(s) and child/children to needed resources;
- Offer Truancy Workgroup Classes if child is 13 years of age or older;
- Will provide the child with community service opportunities if child is 13 years of age or older;
- Schedule/facilitate School Attendance meetings with child, parent(s)/guardian, C&Y staff; and,
- Will consider a short-term out-of-home placement as a prevention intervention.

If the child continues to accrue additional illegal absences despite previous interventions, Juvenile Court intervention may occur and C&Y will consider making a recommendation for an out-of-home placement.