

## Parents & Caregivers

Sometimes, for reasons outside of your control, your student may struggle to see the importance of going to school and it can be hard to know what to do.

It is important that you work cooperatively with your student's school at the earliest sign of difficulties. Schools can and will help resolve barriers that may be making school feel like a frustrating and unwelcome place for your student.

It is important to understand that ignoring attendance issues only makes them worse, for you and for your student.

## Students

Remember you won't be in school forever, and no matter what you do once you are done, the world can be a closed door without a high school diploma.

If you aren't participating in school you might be telling your future boss that you won't show up for work either, without even realizing it!

### **FOR MORE INFORMATION**

*Review your school handbook or consult the following;*

#### **Boscobel School District**

608-375-4161 High School  
608-375-4165 Elementary School

#### **Hillsboro School District**

608-489-489-2221

#### **Ithaca School District**

608-585-2311

#### **Kickapoo School District**

608-627-1494

#### **Richland School District**

608-647-6131 High School  
608-647-6381 Middle School  
608-647-8971 Doudna Elem  
608-647-6351 Jefferson Elem

#### **Riverdale School District**

608-739-3116 High School  
608-739-3101 Elem & Middle

#### **River Valley School District**

608-588-2554 High School  
608-583-2556 Middle School  
608-583-2091 Elementary

#### **Weston School District**

608-986-2151

## RICHLAND COUNTY

*Academic Year 2015-2016*

### *Truancy Procedures*

*Working harder  
together to sustain  
brighter futures.*

*This message is approved by the  
Richland County Truancy Committee*



## Brighter Futures

Regular school attendance is essential to school success. Frequent absence from school is one of the number one reasons that youth have poor achievement and discouragement in school. Students cannot expect to achieve their full potential if they frequently miss class sessions.

It is the legal and moral responsibility of parents, guardians, and/or legal custodians to ensure regular school attendance. This pattern is established early on through the attitude and support of the school, as shown by the caregiver(s).

School and community resources must be available to give support to caregivers as needed to ensure regular school attendance.

## Truancy Defined

**Truant** is defined as “a pupil who is absent from school without an acceptable excuse...for all or part of any day on which school is held during a school semester.”

**Habitual Truant** is defined as “a pupil who is absent from school without an acceptable excuse...for all or part of 5 (five) or more days on which school is held during a school semester.”

**Schools want youth in class; if you are having trouble with attendance, speak to your school principal and ask for a meeting to generate ideas *before* a referral is made.**

## First Offense

When a student meets the definition of truancy, the school may file a referral to law enforcement. An officer will then issue a citation and the student and at least one parent / guardian will be required to do the following;

- ☑ Attend a Truancy Diversion Hearing which will be held weekly with the Assistant DA and the Judge.
- ☑ With the assistance of the Assistant DA, draft a diversion agreement to address the truancy problems.
- ☑ Present the agreement to the Judge, school representative, and juvenile intake worker.

- ☑ The student and their parent/ guardian will have six months to prove that the truancy is being addressed.

## Second & Subsequent Offenses

If attendance continues to be an issue, then a student may be found to be habitually truant. The school may then issue a second referral, to Health and Human Services, in which the following may occur;

The juvenile intake worker will recommend to the Assistant DA that the diversion agreement is revoked for non-compliance.

- ☞ The Assistant DA will revoke the diversion agreement and file to place the student on a Juvenile In Need of Protection and Services order (JIPS).
- ☞ Upon review and approval by the Judge, the juvenile will be placed on supervision for a period no less than one year.
- ☞ The student will have order conditions that limit personal freedoms until school attendance has improved, in addition to paying fines and completing community service.

