

## What can happen if I have to go to court for truancy?

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- Placed under a court order under the supervision of JCDHHS.
- Fined up to \$500
- Home detention
- Placement in a non-secure setting
- Community service hours
- Counseling
- Suspension of driver's license or work permit
- Curfew conditions
- Restrictions on associating with certain people
- Restrictions on going to certain places

## Contributing to Truancy

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Anyone over 17 who, by any act or omission, knowingly encourages or contributes to the truancy of a person under 17 is guilty of a Class C misdemeanor.

## Advice for Parents

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- Encourage your student to attend school.
- Let your student know that you think school is important.
- Set a regular bed time.
- Provide plenty of time for your student to get ready in the morning.
- Plan appointments and vacations around the school day as much as possible.
- Bring doctor's notes with dates and times your child was seen if they must miss school.
- View tardiness as an unacceptable behavior.
- Refuse to provide an excuse for your student unless it is a legitimate absence.
- Notify the school in cases of prolonged absences due to hospitalizations, ceremonies, etc.



## Attendance & Truancy

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*Half the battle of succeeding is showing up!*

WISCONSIN STATE STATUTE  
118.15 STATES THAT ALL  
PERSONS BETWEEN THE AGES  
OF 5-18 YEARS OLD ARE  
REQUIRED TO ATTEND SCHOOL.



## Attendance Policy

- Each student is allowed up to **10 excused** absences per school year. Wis. Stat. 118.15 (3) (c)
- If a student exceeds the 10 excused absences, future absences will be marked unexcused.
- After **5 unexcused** absences, the student is considered habitually truant.
- Absences for doctor appointments, religious services, or other professional services require documentation to be provided to the school.

## Excused Absences

**Illness:** Absences for illness that does not require a doctor visit may be excused by phone call, email, or note to the office from a parent/guardian.

**Personal:** Absences of a personal nature may be excused by phone call, email, or note to the office from a parent/guardian.

**Professional Appointments:** Absences for professional appointments (doctor, dentist, social services, court appearances, religious/cultural services, etc.) do not count toward the student's 10 excused absences per year if the student submits a note from each appointment documenting their visit.



## Unexcused Absences/Tardiness

A student is unexcused if they are absent without an acceptable excuse for all or part of any day during which school is held. This includes being tardy for school or class. After 5 unexcused absences, a student is considered habitually truant.



## Truancy

Once a student is found to be habitually truant, the student can be issued a citation to municipal court or a referral can be made to the Jackson County Department of Health and Human Services. If a referral is done to Jackson County DHHS, an intake appointment will be set up with a social worker who will make recommendations to the court.