
Statistics on Truants

- Higher daytime crime rates
- Lowest academic achievement rates
- More likely to drop out of school

Statistics on School Dropouts

- Higher percentage serve time in prison
- Two and half times more likely to be on welfare than high school graduates
- More likely to experience unstable marriages
- Twice as likely to be unemployed
- Make lower salaries

*Working together to
make a better future*



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When a Child is Truant



Reaching out to help

The School

At the first sign of truancy, the school will make internal efforts to address the problem, which may include:



1. Referral to a guidance counselor or student assistance program.
2. Mentoring program.
3. Reassessment of the classroom setting
4. Contacting parent(s) or caretaker(s).
5. Possible referral to Friend, Inc. Community Services.

When truancy persists:

1. The school will send a formal letter of notification of the truancy to the parent(s) or caretaker(s) pursuant to Section 1354, Public School Code.
2. The school will have three or more documented contacts with parent(s) or caretaker(s) to discuss the mandate for regular school attendance and develop a plan to assure it.
3. The school may cite the truant for each unlawful absence.
4. The school may refer the truant to Friend, Inc. Community Services after the second citation to the Magisterial District Judge, within the current academic year, due to educational neglect.

Parents or Caretakers

Parents or caretakers are responsible for ensuring their child attends school regularly as scheduled:

1. Absences must be reported to the school the day of the absence, whenever possible.
2. All absences must be followed up with a written excuse by the parent or physician when the child returns to school.
3. Chronic medical conditions, which result in extensive absence, must be reported to the school nurse. Documentation to the school by the child's primary care physician is required. This information remains confidential.
4. Parents'/students employment is not a valid reason for children missing school. Parents are responsible for assuring supervision for their children at all times.

Magisterial District Judge

1. May order fines of up to \$300.00 per day.
2. May order parents to complete a parenting program.
3. May order parents to complete up to six months of community service.
4. May incarcerate a parent if truancy persists.

Truants Age 13-16

1. May be ordered to complete community service.
2. May be fined directly up to \$300.00 + court costs.
3. May lose driving privileges from 90 days to 6 months with each citation.
4. May be arrested if they fail to pay fines and costs.



- To combat truancy, Friend, Inc. Community Services has been awarded a grant through the Department of Community and Economic Development (DCED) to develop an Anti-Truancy Initiative.
- Truant students and their parents are held accountable if their case reaches the court system. Through the Anti-Truancy Initiative, parents may have the option of having the \$300 fine waived if they complete a parenting education program and/or their student fully participates in a mentoring program with Kutztown University students. Both of these services will be coordinated by Friend.
- School district personnel also have the option of referring students and their parents to the program prior to the attendance issues becoming a legal matter.
- Additional services will be offered by Friend to those parents who qualify. If you are interested in more information, please call your school district's office (Kutztown Middle School, 610-683-3575 or Kutztown High School, 610-683-7346), Friend at 610-683-7790, or Magisterial District Judge Gail Greth at 610-944-7202.