

HOW YOU CAN HELP YOUR CHILD ATTEND SCHOOL

- ❖ Stress the value of education and graduation.
- ❖ Attend parent-teacher meetings.
- ❖ Talk with your child about school, his or her friends, activities and report cards.
- ❖ Make a study area for your child at home and set a regular study time.
- ❖ Help with homework or ask the school about homework assistance programs.
- ❖ Help your child set goals for attendance.
- ❖ Encourage participation in supervised after-school activities.
- ❖ Set clear rules and consequences in a contract with your child.
- ❖ Don't ignore calls or letters from the school about truancy.
- ❖ Talk with your child about how to address the problem.
- ❖ If you need to, get help through Youth Assistance or other agencies.



Local Youth Assistance Offices

All in area code 248

Avondale.....	852-3716
Berkley.....	837-8229
Birmingham	203-4300
Bloomfield.....	341-5680
Brandon/Groveland.....	627-1800
Clarkston	623-4319
Clawson.....	655-4401
Farmington	489-3434
Ferndale	586-8700
Hazel Park.....	582-9125
Holly.....	328-3181
Huron Valley	676-8492
Lakes Area	956-5070
Madison.....	589-6860
Novi.....	347-0410
Oak Park.....	336-7679
Orion.....	693-6878
Oxford.....	969-5186
Pontiac.....	451-7549
Rochester	656-3558
Royal Oak.....	546-8282
South Lyon	573-8189
Southfield.....	746-7658
Troy	823-5095
Waterford.....	618-7383
West Bloomfield.....	592-1278

Central Office.....858-0051
Volunteer Programs.....858-0041 or 858-0045

For More Information go to: www.oakgov.com/ya

The Oakland County Youth Assistance Program is administered under the auspices of the Oakland County Circuit Court-Family Division. Principal funding is provided through the Oakland County Board of Commissioners. Each local Youth Assistance Program operates with the sponsorship and financial support of its local school district and municipalities.

Kevin Oeffner
Court Administrator

Pamela J. Monville
Deputy Court Administrator

Mary Schusterbauer
Chief of Youth Assistance

Oakland County does not discriminate on the basis of disability in admission or access to its programs, activities or services, as required by Title II of the Americans With Disabilities Act of 1990. Oakland County is an Equal Employment Opportunity Employer.



Oakland County

Strengthening Families
Through Community Involvement

Educational Neglect and School Truancy

What Parents and Children Need to Know

**WHAT DOES THE LAW SAY
ABOUT SCHOOL TRUANCY?**

**YOUTH ASSISTANCE OFFERS
CASEWORK SERVICES TO
PARENTS WITH SCHOOL
TRUANCY CONCERNS**

- ❖ School truancy is a violation of the State Compulsory Education Law requiring parents of children, ages 6 to 18, to make sure their attendance is continuous and consecutive for the entire school year. *

*Per MCL 380.1561

WHAT IS SCHOOL TRUANCY?

- ❖ When a student does not have a valid reason for arriving late, skipping a class, missing a whole day or many days of school.
- ❖ When a child willfully and repeatedly is absent from school or other learning programs intended to meet the child's educational needs.

WHAT IS EDUCATIONAL NEGLECT?

- ❖ When parents/guardians neglect, or refuse to provide, proper or necessary education for their children.



EFFECTS OF SCHOOL TRUANCY

- ◆ Children quit school, limiting their career opportunities.
- ◆ Children become dependent on parents for income.
- ◆ Children are more likely to use alcohol and other drugs.
- ◆ Parents lose work time to attend court, counseling or parenting classes.
- ◆ Students have poor school performance.
- ◆ Increases the likelihood of trouble with the law, such as vandalism, shoplifting and burglary. (82% of prisoners are dropouts.)

POTENTIAL CONTRIBUTING FACTORS

- ◆ Family problems like divorce, substance abuse, domestic violence or illness.
- ◆ Chronic medical problems, or mental health issues of child or parent.
- ◆ Parents do not value education, or a family history of school dropouts.
- ◆ Learning problems.
- ◆ Parents' work schedules.
- ◆ Lack of family support systems.
- ◆ Family moves frequently.
- ◆ Lack of structure or reward system.

PARENT/CHILD CONSEQUENCES

If the school's efforts to prevent truancy are not successful, the following options can be used:

- ◆ A family can be referred to Youth Assistance for casework services and referrals to other programs or services.
- ◆ Students can be referred to the Oakland County Prosecutor's Early Intervention program.
- ◆ The Oakland Schools attendance officer can become involved and pursue court intervention.
- ◆ A District Court petition can be filed against the parents or guardians.
- ◆ A Circuit Court petition can be filed against the student or parent.
- ◆ A conference can be scheduled with a court referee to set requirements for attendance.
- ◆ If requirements are not met, the referee can refer a child to the prosecutor to face charges of school truancy.
- ◆ A judge can decide if the court will take jurisdiction over the child. Services may be ordered at a cost to the family.