

What is Truancy?

Truant - A child subject to compulsory school attendance and who is absent without valid exemption from such attendance for a school day or portion thereof.

Truancy Cap - 10 percent or more of the regular attendance days. In a school year with 180 days, the cap would be set at missing 18 or more days during the school year.

Valid cause for exempt absence - An absence that is reported for the following reasons does not count toward the truancy cap. To obtain an exemption, the student/parent must provide one of the following to the building administrator:

- Documentation from a physician, dentist, orthodontist or therapist stating the student had an appointment that required them to be absent for all or a portion of the school day.
- Documentation from a physician stating the student was ill and needed to be absent from school for a specified period of time.
- Documentation of a religious holiday, the funeral of a close family member, legal requirements or out-of-school suspensions.

Chronic or habitual truant - A child who is subject to compulsory school attendance and who is absent without valid exempted cause from such attendance for 10 percent or more of the previous 180 regular attendance days.

Truant minor - A child to whom supportive services, including prevention, diagnostic, intervention and remedial services, alternative programs, and other school and community resources, have been provided and have failed to result in the cessation of chronic truancy or have been offered and refused.

The Michigan School Law states that it is the responsibility of parents to see that their children between the ages of 6 and 18 be in regular attendance at school, which includes being in school from the beginning to the end of the day.

The sections of the Revised School Code that address this issue are contained in the Michigan Compiled Laws under MCL 380.1147, 380.1278a, 380.1278b, 380.1284, 380.1284b, 380.1561-380.1599 and the State School Aid Act under MCL 388.1701.



EVERY DAY

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