

WHAT IF A STUDENT CONTINUES TO HAVE UNEXCUSED ABSENCES AFTER DIVERSION?

If the student is twelve years old or younger, an educational neglect petition against the parent/guardian may be filed with the county attorney. If the student is thirteen years old or older, a truancy petition may be filed with the court designated worker (CDW). Educational Neglect may also be filed on the parent/guardian of older students.

WHAT IS THE RESULT OF A PETITION BEING FILED?

The petition may result in a court appearance that must be made with your attorney present. You may also be responsible for court cost at this time.

From this point, the court will give you guidelines and directions on your truancy issues.

If those guidelines are not followed, a contempt motion will be filed in court.

The goal of the Daviess County Public Schools district is to provide every child with a great education. We are providing this information to help parents and students understand the importance of school attendance. We hope that once a final notice is given, students will not have any more unexcused absences. If this is the case, no further steps will be taken.

The DCPS district appreciates the opportunity to work with parents to help students understand the importance of regular attendance at school.

Our schools are committed to working with families to provide the best possible education for every student as we prepare our students for a successful transition from school to adult life.

DCPS teachers, administrators and staff care about children. We want to work with parents to give every student the best possible opportunities for success in the classroom ... and beyond.

If you have any questions, need more information, or if the DCPS district can provide assistance in any way, please contact your school or the DCPS Central Office at (270) 852-7000.

**Daviess County Public
Schools**

Daviess County Public Schools

UNDERSTANDING TRUANCY PROCEDURES

Answers to your Truancy
Questions



WHAT IS THE NEW LAW REGARDING TRUANCY?

Kentucky legislators voted in 2005 to change the law regarding students who are considered habitually truant and therefore subject to court action (KRS 159.150). In order to reduce the number of unexcused absences or tardies, a student is now considered habitually truant on the sixth (6) unexcused absence event.

WHAT IS TRUANCY?

Any child who has been absent from school or tardy for three (3) days without a valid excuse is considered by law to be truant.

HOW SHOULD PARENTS NOTIFY DCPS SCHOOLS WHEN THEIR CHILD WILL BE ABSENT?

Parents/guardians are required to provide documentation for each absence of their child. This can be in the form of a doctor's statement, parent note, or phone call. Parent notes and/or phone calls are limited by policy to a maximum of eight absences, after which a doctor's statement will be required. Parents have three (3) days in which to submit a valid excuse for absences, otherwise the absence must be recorded as unexcused.

WHAT ABOUT STUDENT ILLNESS AFTER THE EIGHT NOTES HAVE BEEN USED?

Any absence beyond the eight (8) days due to illness must be verified by a doctor's statement in order to be considered excused.

WHAT ARE THE DCPS DISTRICT'S PROCEDURES FOR DEALING WITH TRUANCY?

On the fifth (5) unexcused absence, a final notice of impending legal action can be delivered to the parents in the form of a letter or a visit to the home of the student. High school students may be met at school and issued a final notice for them to give to their parent/guardian.



HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS

Refer to your school handbook for information regarding make-up opportunities for excessive unexcused absences. Each high school has developed its own criteria for awarding credits for make-up time. Truancy procedures at the district level are not related to make-up time at the school level. Again, please refer to your high school for more details.

WHAT IF I AM NOT HOME WHEN A HOME VISIT ATTEMPT IS MADE?

The final notice will be left near the front door of the premises.

WHAT HAPPENS IF A STUDENT CONTINUES TO MISS MORE UNEXCUSED DAYS AFTER THE FINAL NOTICE HAS BEEN GIVEN?

Once the final notice has been given and the student continues to have unexcused absences, the school district may seek assistance from the county attorney by filing an educational neglect charge against the parent/guardian and/or a truancy juvenile complaint petition against the student with the Daviess District Court. If a student is charged with truancy, they, along with their parent(s) may be required to meet with a Court Designated Worker (CDW) through the Daviess County Juvenile Services program. The CDW will decide if the student qualifies to participate in the truancy diversion program or send the case to the county attorney. If a parent is charged with educational neglect, they will be required to appear in juvenile court before a district judge.