

OFFICE OF THE PROSECUTING ATTORNEY
312 S. JACKSON STREET
JACKSON, MI 49201

HENRY C. ZAVISLAK
PROSECUTING ATTORNEY

(517) 788-4263 FAX: (517) 730-4714
www.co.jackson.mi.us/prosecutor

MARK E. BLUMER
CHIEF ASSISTANT PROSECUTOR

September 1, 2010

Dear Parent/Guardian:

Chronic truancy threatens the academic achievement and future success of our children. Michigan law requires all children from the age of six to sixteen attend school. It is the legal responsibility of the parents and guardians of children to ensure their attendance throughout the entire school year.

This office, in cooperation with Jackson County Courts, local schools and local law enforcement, is pursuing an initiative to keep our kids in school. Effective this year a student will be considered truant if they are absent for 10 days or more without valid/lawful excuses.

Valid/Lawful School Absences:

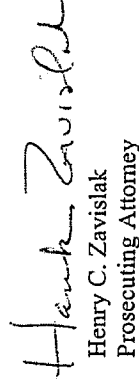
- Sickness with doctor's note
- Doctor appointments
- Religious holidays
- Extreme family emergency
- Lice (3-5 days)
- Funeral (2 days)
- Suspensions (less than 10 days)

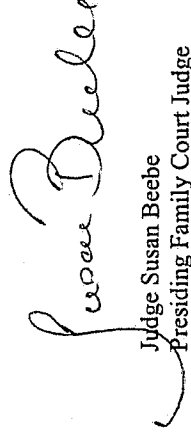
Invalid Excuses:

- Staying home to baby-sit
- Too tired
- Travel
- Needed at home
- Weather
- Missed bus or kicked off bus
- Child is not immunized
- Overslept
- Sickness (no doctor's note)
- Chronic lice (over 5 days)
- Suspensions (over 10 days)

These are just a few examples. If you have questions regarding the validity of an absence, call your school's principal. As former Sheriff I also saw a direct correlation between truancy, delinquency and criminal behavior. Education is a key component in a community's effort to reduce crime. For the future of our kids and our community help us make sure our kids are in school.

Sincerely,


Henry C. Zavislak
Prosecuting Attorney


Judge Susan Beebe
Presiding Family Court Judge