

## Michigan Law

Except as otherwise provided in this section, for a child who turned age 11 before December 1, 2009 or who entered grade 6 before 2009, the child shall be sent to a public school during the entire school year from the age of 6 to the child's sixteen birthday. Or, for a child who turns age 11 on or after December 1, 2009 or a child who was age 11 before that date and enters grade 6 in 2009 or later, that child shall attend public school during the entire school year from the age of 6 to the child's eighteenth birthday. MCL 380.1561. Failure to comply with compulsory education can subject a person to criminal prosecution and if convicted, to not less than two days nor more than ninety days in jail or a fine of not more than \$50 or both. Also, an educational neglect petition in family court can be filed. MCL 380.1561, 380.1599, 712A.2.



For More Information  
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TIP is a collaborative effort with these Eaton County community partners: local school districts, Family Court, Prosecuting Attorney's Office, Eaton County Sheriff, Community Mental Health, and local businesses

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**I'm told my child is truant.  
What does this mean?**

Truancy Intervention Program (TIP) is an Eaton County program designed to provide positive support to parents and students while at the same time enforcing Michigan's mandatory school attendance law.

## When is my child truant?

A child is considered truant when the student provides no valid or documented reason for missing school.

School administrators understand that special circumstances may arise from time to time that prevent your child from attending school. However, every school district in Eaton County has attendance policies that define truancy in their buildings.

Truancy includes:

- Excessive amount of days absent due to illness without documentation from a doctor
- Missing class hours or days without a valid reason
- Multiple days with unexcused absences
- Excessive number of tardies, particularly in the morning

Your child's school will contact you if they are concerned about the number of your child's ***excused or unexcused absences.***

At the school administrator's discretion, a truancy referral will be forwarded to the Truancy Intervention Program (TIP).

## When is my child excused?

If your child is absent from school, please contact your child's school and let them know the reason for the absence. In some cases, verification from a doctor may be requested from the school.

Excused absences may include:

- Student's illness
- Student's doctor or dental appointment
- Religious holiday
- Death in the family
- Approved school-related activity

### As a parent, what can I do?

A key responsibility as a parent is to ensure that your child attends school regularly and on time!

As a parent, you can:

- Talk to your child's teacher and building administrator. It is important to keep the lines of communication open between you and the school.
- Make certain your child is at school each day **on time.**
- Set a regular routine for getting homework done and turned in.
- Limit late night activity. Have a regular, reasonable bedtime and stick to it on school nights.
- Establish rules and consequences for breaking those rules, then follow through!
- Don't allow other activities to take priority over school.
- Find ways to reinforce the importance of your child's education.
- Find ways to increase your child's interest in school through after-school activities and sports.