

Excused vs. Unexcused Absences

Excused Absences:

Family emergency
Illness/Medical or mental health appointments
(documentation may be required)
Religious holidays

Unexcused Absences:

Babysitting
Working
Needed at home
Child is not immunized
Car trouble
Missing the bus
Oversleeping
Weather

Habitual truant means a child under the age of 17 years who is absent from attendance at school without lawful excuse for seven full school days if the child is in elementary school or for one or more class periods on seven school days if the child is in middle school, junior high school, or high school, or the child is 17 years old and has not lawfully withdrawn from school.



Community Resources

Wright County Health & Human Services
Public Health, Financial Services, Social Services
763-682-7400

Wright County Court Services
763-682-7308

Wright County Sheriff's Department
(Non-Emergency): (763) 682-1162

Four County Mobile Crisis Response Team

320-253-5555

Crisis Text Line

Text MN to 741741

Crisis Hot Line

800-635-8008

National Suicide Prevention Lifeline

800-273-8255

Central MN Mental Health Center

Buffalo: 763-682-4400; Monticello: 763-295-4001

CentraCare

320-229-4908

Family Counseling Center

763-682-5420

Healing Moments Counseling

763-732-3351

Nystrom & Associates

763-746-9492

Rivers of Hope

763-295-3433

Solutions Counseling Services

763-515-4563

Twin Cities Behavioral Health

763-682-0033

Wright County Health and Human Services

For questions and information regarding Wright 2 School Program contact:

Truancy/Ed Neglect Case Aide

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Wright 2 School



Truancy and Educational Neglect Intervention Program



What is our goal?

The goal of our program is to strengthen, support, and serve students, their families, and schools; to achieve regular and consistent school attendance.

One of the most important things parents can do to help their student succeed is to make sure they attend school. Minnesota law requires all students to attend school.

The program has proven to be a success based on parent/guardian and family involvement, and collaboration with schools. We recognize that attendance is clearly a problem that has long term effects on students, families, and the community. We have promoted a community standard in which school attendance is valued and expected. Our students cannot achieve success without the benefit of an education.

Interventions

A **student support plan** is developed with the school to identify the student's academic environment, interventions, and the student and family strength to develop a plan to not accrue more unexcused absences.

If the student accrues 5 unexcused absences the school submits the **Initial Referral** to Wright County. The family receives a letter from the County Attorney's office for a **Attendance Intervention Meeting (AIM)** to attend in person.

If the student accrues more unexcused absences and the student support plan does not improve attendance, the school submits the **Intervention Referral** to Wright County.

The social worker meets with the student, parents, and any identified family supports to develop a plan to support the family to improve attendance within five days of receiving the referral.

The social worker and school come together collaboratively through the use of the **Student Attendance Review Board (SARB)** meeting to identify and set up any additional interventions to assist and support the family in improving attendance and making sure the student is in school.

If there is no progress or improvement in attendance a **CHIPS (Child in Need of Protection or Services) Petition** will be filed with the County Attorneys Office for Truancy or a **child protection report** will be filed for Educational Neglect.

Plan for Success!

Student Responsibilities

- ◆ Attend school every day and be on time
- ◆ Talk to someone at school if you are having problems
- ◆ Attend school meetings
- ◆ Know and follow school policies and rules

Parent/Guardian Responsibilities

- ◆ Send your student to school
- ◆ Communicate with school and know the attendance policy
- ◆ Don't cover for your student's unexcused absence
- ◆ Attend school meetings
- ◆ Get services for your student if problems interfere with school attendance

School Responsibilities

- ◆ Provide a program/schedule that meets the student's educational needs
- ◆ Address problems identified as barriers to the student's ability to attend and learn
- ◆ Intervene early to prevent habitual truancy by meeting with the student and/or families
- ◆ Refer student to Truancy Intervention Program after completing Student Support Plan

Wright County Health and Human Services Social Worker Responsibilities

- ◆ Assess students for risk of ongoing truancy, and develop a plan of needed services
- ◆ Implement services to address truancy issues
- ◆ Conduct follow-up service meetings with the student, parents, and school
- ◆ Identify problems accessing services, difficulties in improving attendance, and adding or adjusting services as needed
- ◆ Coordinate interventions with school and other service providers

