Tips for parents

VANCE COUNTY SCHOOLS offer opportunities for your child to succeed in life. *Make sure your child is in school all day, every day!*

- Make it clear that education is important to you by showing interest in your child's schoolwork and activities.
- Know school policies on absences and making up work.
- Know and support the school's rules and tell your children you expect them to follow the rules.
- Keep an accurate calendar that shows breaks and plan family vacations when school is in recess.
- Make sure your child arrives on time.
- Being late 10 minutes a day totals 30 hours of lost instructions for the school year.
- Schedule appointments after school hours, whenever possible.
- Call the school when your child is absent.
- When possible, let the school know in advance that your child will be absent.





Schools and Courts working together for your Child's success.

North Carolina School Social Workers Association

Student Services
Juvenile Attendance Council "JAC"
We stopped by to discuss attendance violation

Please contact: _____

Phone: _____

Date of visit: _____Time of visit: _____

VCS

Student Services Team
Student Behavioral Health Team
Social Emotional Support
Attendance & Truancy
Bullying , Harrassing & Teasing
Conflict Resolution Strategies
Mentoring & Middle School Transition Academy



Education is important for your child's success in life. Regular attendance ensures that your child gets all the benefits school can offer. When children are missing school, they're missing out on those benefits.

School attendance is so important that North Carolina Law makes it compulsory for all children ages 6 to 16 attending public schools. When children are excessively absent, the law holds parents/guardians accountable.

If your child is truant (missing scheduled school time without an accepted excused absence), you and/or your child could end up in court with serious consequences.

Attendance may be the single most important factor in school success because:

- Children do best in school when they are in class every day. The U.S. Department of Education reports that for every missed day of school, it takes a student two days to catch up.
- In addition to academics, children learn valuable lessons about personal responsibility and commitment.
- Children keep up with their peers and have stronger bonds with school and community.
- Annually, students who graduate from high school will earn 30% more than those who don't complete high school.



Notify school of any absences



Make sure you know your school's policies about notification regarding absences and what documentation your school accepts for:

- **Illness**
- **Medical appointments**
- **Observances of religious holidays**
- **Family emergencies**

Also know what absences your school will accept. Some activities generally not accepted for an excused absence include:

- Babysitting
- Missing the bus
- Cold weather
- Need for sleep or rest
- Employment
- Car broke down

If you get notification from school about attendance issues, it is important that you get in touch with school officials immediately. Delaying response to any correspondence will limit your ability to settle these issues without further legal implications.

You should also know that if you end up in court, all attendance issues — including tardiness — may be considered in the decision of the court.

Consequences of truancy

As a parent you are responsible for your child's regular attendance at school. School staff will work with you to keep you notified of any problems with your child's attendance. You can work with the school to resolve attendance issues. When a student has excessive attendance issues that remain unsolved, schools will contact the Judicial Attendance Council (JAC). This council is designed to recommend outside services and agencies that might be able to assist students and parents with issues that directly or indirectly impact attendance issues. In some cases the (JAC) will make recommendations for a particular case to be referred for a legal resolution. In that case, you may receive a petition/warrant and be brought before the court. Based on the outcome of the hearing, a parent found neglectful could be arrested/jailed or the child could be removed from the home.

If you have done everything you possibly can do to encourage attendance but the child is not responding and is intentionally truant from school (skipping), charges can be brought against the student to be handled by the juvenile court. The student could be placed on probation or end up in the Juvenile Justice Center.

In some cases that end up in court, the consequences come at a high price for the family in terms of time, cost and emotional impact.

