



Legal

Consequences

Absence from school in the early grades is often the first warning of criminal misconduct. Students could end up experiencing severe legal ramifications.

Parents/Guardians could be held accountable for their child/ren's excessive absences. According to Michigan law, parents/guardians can be fined or jailed if a child has 10 or more unexcused absences.

Jackson County Attendance Task Force (JCATF)

The JCATF was created with an overall goal to improve school attendance in Jackson County. JCATF represents a multitude of community stakeholders including Caregivers, Community Partners, Local Schools, Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) & Jackson County Courts. The JCATF is working collaboratively to address barriers and concerns related to chronic absenteeism/truancy as well as developing and implementing solutions to identified attendance problems.

When do absences become a problem?

Good Attendance

Student has missed **fewer than 5%** of school days (generally less than 4 or 5 days in a semester)

At-Risk

Student has missed **between 5% and 10%** of school days (generally between 5-9 days in a semester)

Chronic Absence

Student has missed **10% or more** of school days (generally 9 days or more in a semester)

IF YOU ARE STRUGGLING TO GET YOUR CHILD TO SCHOOL REGULARLY, PLEASE CONTACT:

KIMBERLY BROWN
ATTENDANCE, TRUANCY, & SPECIAL POPULATIONS COORDINATOR
KIMBERLY.BROWN@JCISD.ORG
517-768-5264



Jackson County Intermediate School District
Learning Services & Instruction Department

ATTENDANCE MATTERS





Make attendance a **PRIORITY**

Talk to your child about the importance of showing up to school every day.

Set a routine that includes regular bedtime, laying out clothes and packing backpacks the night before.

Avoid scheduling appointments during the school day and vacations that fall outside of school breaks.

Have a backup plan for getting your child to school if something comes up. Call on a family member, friend, neighbor or another parent to help out.

Don't let your child stay home unless they are truly sick. Be aware that frequent complaints of headaches or stomach aches could be signs of anxiety and reach out to your child's teacher or counselor for advice.

NOTIFY THE SCHOOL

Be sure you know what your school considers excused and unexcused absences, as well as what documentation is needed. Here are some examples:

EXCUSED ABSENCES

- Student illness/injury with doctor's note
- Medical appointments
- Religious holidays
- Extreme family emergencies
- Funeral/death in the family
- Mandated court appearances (documented)

UNEXCUSED ABSENCES

- Staying home to babysit
- Overslept/missed bus/transportation
- Travel
- Weather
- Illness without proper documentation
- Willful truancy (skipping)
- Parent illness/injury



The **FACTS**

There are 180 days in the school year calendar. Attendance matters because it can have a significant impact on your child's success. Attending school regularly helps them learn about personal responsibility and commitment, and ensures they don't miss out on educational opportunities that could put them behind their peers academically.

Schools provide a space for students to grow as a "whole child" supporting their physical, social, and emotional wellbeing in addition to their academic needs. When your child misses school they are missing out on an opportunities of growth in those areas.

MISSING A DAY OF SCHOOL HERE AND THERE MAY NOT SEEM LIKE MUCH, BUT ABSENCES ADD UP!

When your student misses 2 days a month . . . **they will miss over 1 year** of school by graduation.

When your student misses 4 days a month . . . **they will miss over 2 years** of school by graduation.

