

Dakota County Truancy Reduction Program

Truancy referrals are assigned to a Truancy Social Worker. The social worker meets with the youth and their family to:

- ◆ Review the youth's school attendance and school performance history.
- ◆ Identify any needs or issues that contribute to chronic absences.
- ◆ Work with the youth's school to discuss possible school interventions.
- ◆ Provide referrals for other services, which could include:

Mental Health Assessment

Brief Counseling

Chemical Health Assessment

Mentoring

Parent Education

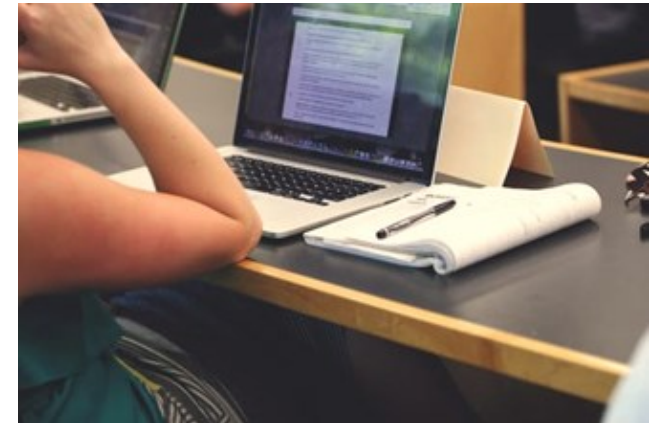
Family Therapy

Career Success Group

Other support

Attendance is important!

- ◆ Children who are chronically absent from Kindergarten and 1st grade are much less likely to read at grade level with their peers by 3rd grade.
- ◆ By 6th grade, chronic absence is a proven early warning sign for youth dropping out of school.
- ◆ By 9th grade, good school attendance can predict graduation rates even better than 8th grade test scores.



Dakota County Social Services
Truancy Reduction Program

Dakota
COUNTY

Dakota County Social Services

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www.dakotacounty.us Keyword: truancy

Truancy, defined

A student is considered a “habitual truant” if they are 12 to 17 years old and absent without lawful excuse for seven school days. (MN Statute 260C.007, Subd. 19)



Dakota County Social Services will accept a truancy report when a child was off of school property and has accumulated seven unexcused absences. Three tardies to school is equivalent to one full day absence.

A parent or guardian may seek to have their child’s absence excused. The school will accept or deny the request for an excused absence based on their attendance policy.

Attendance can be influenced by many factors, including:

- ◆ Chronic Illness
- ◆ Chemical Use
- ◆ Mental Health
- ◆ Peer Influences
- ◆ Bullying
- ◆ School Relationships
- ◆ Learning Disabilities
- ◆ Family Isolation
- ◆ Language Barriers
- ◆ Transportation

Good attendance is a shared responsibility!

Schools are responsible!

- ◆ Intervene early to address school attendance with the student and their family after three unexcused absences.
- ◆ Refer the student to Dakota County Social Services Truancy Reduction Program when a child has seven unexcused absences.
- ◆ Communicate and collaborate with the Truancy Reduction Social Worker to facilitate school interventions and monitor attendance.

Students are responsible!

- ◆ Attend school every day on time.
- ◆ Complete required school work.
- ◆ Ask for assistance from school staff when needed.

Parents are responsible!

- ◆ Send your child to school on time every day.
- ◆ Monitor your child’s attendance and progress in school.
- ◆ Contact the school when your child is absent.
- ◆ Attend school meetings to discuss your child’s attendance and school performance.

