

ATTENDANCE NEWS



It's Kansas Law!

3 consecutive days
5 days in a school semester
7 days in a school year
7 tardies = 1 unexcused
absence

THE KCKPS TRUANCY PROGRAM

The Kansas City Kansas Public Schools Truancy Diversion Program's intent is to raise attendance awareness and have students maintain or improve school attendance. The program is a multi-faceted partnership with active participation with the Wyandotte County District Attorney's Office, licensed social workers and truancy monitors to combat barriers that lead to poor attendance. The diversion program serves students Pre/K through 12th grade. This program is based on the Compulsory Attendance Law that requires every child who is enrolled in school and/or has reached the age of seven years and is under the age of 18 unless excused in accordance with provisions of Kansas law (K.S.A. 72-1113) attend school. Therefore, a student is truant when:

- *He/she is required by law to attend school and is not enrolled*
- *A student is truant when he/she is inexcusably absent from school. A student is truant if he/she are absent without a valid excuse for*

3 consecutive days

5 days in a school semester

7 days in a school year

7 tardies = 1 unexcused absence

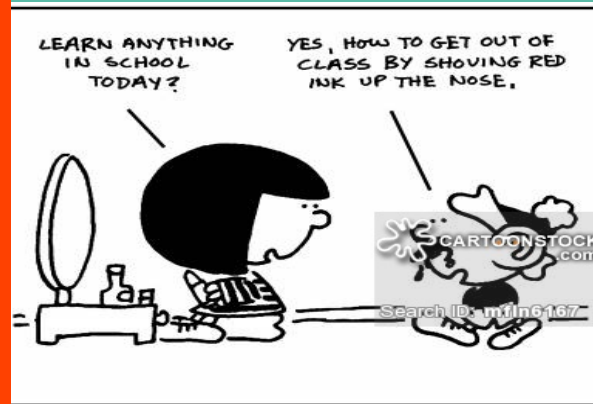


**KANSAS CITY
KANSAS
PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

Parent Engagement



Good Attendance helps kids succeed in school and bolster their self-esteem. improving attendance requires a comprehensive approach that goes beyond sanctions and includes incentives.



What can I DO to promote attendance?

- **Positive comments to children**
- **Positive notes home to parents that appreciate their efforts**
- **Free homework pass**
- **First-in-line privileges**
- **Team Certificates for the best record or most improved record**
- **Name on the "Attendance Wall" in the classroom**
- **Chance to act as teacher's assistant**

Communicate clear expectations and support. Educate parents to school policies and expectations for student attendance and on-time arrival. Share contact information for district or community agencies that are available to help families that may have difficulties with health issues, homelessness or lack of transportation. Help parents understand that school staff will be monitoring attendance and are available to help families address barriers, such as transportation

and health problems, that might be preventing a child from getting to school.

Establishing a positive relationship with parents . Often schools contact parents for the negative. Acknowledging good attendance, is a good way to establish positive relationship with parents .

Offering support when needed can build trust. It's important to not assume that parent does not care about their child's attendance. There can be barriers that families

face and are too afraid or even embarrassed to share with school officials. Making sure that resources are provided to to our families is a great way to start a good relationship and trust with families.

Building a community-wide habit and culture of attendance requires helping everyone to debunk commonly held myths about attendance and make getting children to school everyday a shared priority.

Opportunities to Engage Parents:

- Family Advocacy
- Open House
- Back to School Nights
- PTA Meetings
- Award Ceremonies
- School Assemblies.



REMEMBER;
Parent engagement is an ongoing process, not a one-time event.

