

TIPS TO IMPROVE ATTENDANCE

For Caregivers

- Make your child's education a family priority.
- Make sure your child gets plenty of rest each night.
- Check to make sure your child has completed all homework assignments.
- Do not enable your child by encouraging or endorsing unexcused absences.
- Be an advocate for your child.
- If your child refuses to go to school, do not hesitate to ask for help from the school counselor or social worker.

For Business and Community Members

- Report suspected truancy – You are helping the children to succeed.
- A minor must be in the care and control of a parent/guardian or school official during school hours.
- Get to know your neighborhood School Police officer so you can request assistance if needed.

In Partnership With

- ◇ Miami-Dade County Public Schools
 - School Operations
 - Division of Student Services
 - Federal and State Compliance Office
 - Office of Community Engagement
 - Parent/Teacher Association
 - South Dade High School (for their public service messages)
- ◇ Miami-Dade County Juvenile Services Department
- ◇ The Miami Bridge Youth and Family Services, Inc.
- ◇ Center for Family and Child Enrichment, Inc.

Miami-Dade Schools Police Department



6100 NW 2nd Avenue
Miami, FL 33127
Phone: 305-995-COPS
www.mdspolice.com

MIAMI-DADE SCHOOLS POLICE DEPARTMENT

"Committed To Excellence Through Service"

TRUANCY PREVENTION

Each Child Has The Power



To Change The World



WHAT IS TRUANCY?

TRUANCY DEFINED

Florida State Statute (FSS) 984.03 (27) (a) defines a "habitual truant" as a child who has "15 or more unexcused absences within 90 calendar days with or without the knowledge or justifiable consent of the child's parent or legal guardian, and who is subject to compulsory school attendance."



"If you're walking down the right path and you're willing to keep walking, eventually you'll make progress."

President Barack Obama

THE EFFECTS OF TRUANCY

Truancy is a wide-ranging and growing concern for everyone within the community. The Office for Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) has identified a connection between truancy and serious forms of delinquency, such as vandalism, burglary, substance abuse, car theft, and gang activity. The research also shows that adults who were habitual truants as juveniles "tend to exhibit poorer social skills, have lower paying jobs, are more likely to rely on welfare support, and have an increased likelihood of incarceration." The National Center for School Engagement (NCSE) has cited research results indicating that truancy is one of the early warning signs of students headed for academic failure via suspension, expulsion, or dropping out.

The patterns and behaviors contributing to chronic absenteeism start early. According to MDCPS statistics for the 2010-11 school year, student attendance at elementary schools averaged 96%; however, "approximately 6,600 elementary school children were chronically absent, missing more than 11% of school days (more than 20 days), with another 6,500 children at risk of chronic absenteeism together representing more than 11% of all elementary school children."

LEARN TO READ BEFORE 3RD GRADE!

Millions of American children reach 4th grade without learning to read proficiently, particularly among low income children. Up until 3rd grade, reading comprehension is comingled with picture identification and verbal cues. Due to the nature of the 4th grade curriculum, students are expected to process this reading material without additional cues. This is why reading at the 3rd grade level before beginning 4th grade is imperative.

To Report
Truants
call

305-995-
COPS
(2677)