

## Absences

## Truancy

### Excused Absence

Schools allow students to miss class for reasons such as: illness, death of a family member and religious holidays. Each school has a different way of defining a “valid” or “excused” absence. Check your school’s policy or student handbook for definition and explanation

### Unexcused Absences

When Students miss school for not “valid” reasons, the absence is unexcused. Check your school’s policy for definition and explanation. Examples of unexcused absences are: Staying home to care for siblings; missing the bus; working at a job; non-essential appointments and skipping school.



### When are Students Truant?

Students are considered truant when they miss school or classes without a valid excuse. A Habitual truant is: A student in elementary school who is absent for 7 or more days without a valid excuse.

A student in middle, Jr. or High School, who is absent for one or more class periods on at least seven school days without a valid excuse.

Children under 12 are not considered truant, however if there is some indication of parental failure for school attendance it could be considered Educational Neglect.

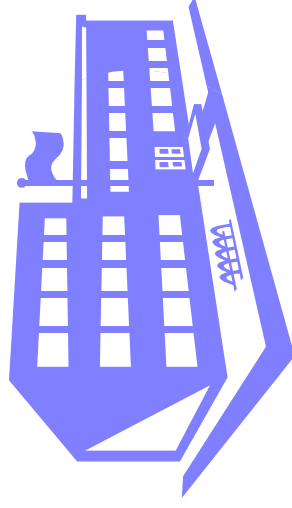
For children under 12 contact the St. Louis County intake screener at **749-7128**

**Please call your local school district office for policies and information**



# TRUANCY

**School Attendance Makes a Difference**



School Districts in  
Northern St. Louis County

## Truancy Review Team (TRT)

*The Team goal is to act as a problem-solving group to help the student attend school and be successful*

Team to be assembled at the 3-5 unexcused absence mark depending on individual student circumstances – to be initiated by a school administrator.

Probation will generate a letter that will go to the parent, with copies to school principal, Social Service Contact & county attorney.

Meetings will be held at the Courthouse in Hibbing & the Probation office in Virginia.

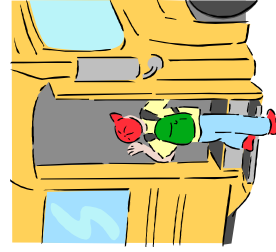
The goal is to have the TRT team gather within 7 days of the referral phone call from the school administrator.

A written “plan” will conclude each team meeting including next steps, referral sources, who does what, etc. signed by the student and others.

Schools use this as a guideline with good judgment based on the individual and the circumstances. If the child is already on probation, don't delay in contacting the probation office about school absences

## Continuum of Truancy Interventions

1. School follows up on unexcused absences per school policy – letters, phone calls, referral to support staff, etc. and document steps taken on the ***School Truancy Referral Form***. This form follows student to the Truancy Review Team (TRT) and if applicable, all court appearances
2. The principal may, at some point, ask the County Attorney for an information letter to go to the parent/household.
3. If absences still occur, the principal will contact the Probation office to schedule a Truancy Review Team (TRT) meeting after 3-5 unexcused absences. Schools determine which school staff attends the TRT meeting.
4. If absences still occur following the TRT meeting and follow up, a truancy petition will be filed with the court. If the student is already on probation – contact your probation officer about the truancy issues



Steps 2 & 3 could be reversed depending on the situation

