

School Attendance and Academic Success is a Shared Responsibility

Responsibilities of the Child:

- Attend school every day, every class and be on time;
- Complete required school work;
- Ask for assistance when needed; and
- Attend school meetings.

Responsibilities of the Parent/Guardian:

- Send your child to school every day and on time;
- Ensure your child has completed homework;
- Monitor your child's attendance and progress in school;
- Inform the school that your child may need to miss school or that your child may need special accommodations to assist with their education;
- Attend school meetings;
- Talk to and listen to your child – address the reasons your child is missing school; and
- Help your child obtain services if there are problems interfering with your child's school attendance.

Responsibilities of the School:

- Provide a program/schedule that meets a child's educational needs;
- Identify and address any barriers to the child's ability to attend school and learn;
- Maintain accurate attendance records and document communication with a child and their parent/guardian;
- Communicate with a child and the child's parent/guardian when the child is not attending school; and
- Send referrals to Goodhue County Health and Human Services.

Responsibilities of Health & Human Services:

- Provide services to a child and their parent/guardian to improve school attendance and address the child's mental health, educational, and social needs;
- Work with school, child, and child's parent/guardian to improve and address barriers to the child's school attendance; and
- Send referrals to the Goodhue County Attorney's Office for legal action.



Legal Consequences

If the parent/guardian and child fail to improve the child's school attendance, the Goodhue County Attorney's Office may file a petition with Court alleging that the child is in need of protection or services. Pursuant to Minnesota law, the Court has the authority to order a range of consequences including:

- Requiring the parent/guardian to deliver their child to school at the beginning of each school day for a specified period of time;
- Requiring the child attend a specific school;
- Requiring the child undergo an evaluation or treatment for chemical dependency or mental health;
- Requiring the child participate in a community service project or other activity or program as deemed appropriate by the Court;
- Suspending the child's driving privileges until the child reaches 18 years of age;
- Requiring the child pay a fine of up to \$100.00;
- Placing the child on supervised probation under specific conditions prescribed by the Court; or
- Transferring custody of the child and placing the child in a group foster home or other residential facility.



Truancy Intervention Program

Supporting Academic Success of Children in Goodhue County

Goodhue County Health & Human Services
426 West Avenue, Red Wing, MN 55066
(651) 385-3200

Goodhue County Attorney's Office
454 West Sixth Street, Red Wing, MN 55066
(651) 267-4950

Goodhue County Area Schools

Education is Essential for a Child's Future Success

Every day a child is absent from school is a lost opportunity for learning. Children who attend school have better prospects for higher education and future employment and income.

Research shows that children who consistently miss school are at risk of lower academic achievement and have a higher likelihood of involvement in criminal behavior and substance abuse.

Education Starts with Attending School

Minnesota law requires that children between the ages of 7-17 years of age attend school. For a child under the age of 12, it is presumed to be the responsibility of that child's parent/guardian to ensure the child attends school on a daily basis. For a child between the ages of 12 - 17 years, it is presumed to be the child's responsibility to attend each class period of school on a daily basis.

Children who are 17 years of age may only lawfully withdraw from school with the written permission of their parent/guardian. Children cannot independently drop out of school.



What to Expect if your Child is Struggling with School Attendance

- 1) The school will contact the child and parent/guardian regarding the child's school attendance;
- 2) The school will send a referral to Goodhue County Health & Human Services if additional unexcused absences occur or if there has been no improvement of the child's school attendance;
- 3) Goodhue County Health & Human Services will reach out to the child, child's parent/guardian, and child's school to schedule a meeting and offer services to improve the child's school attendance; and
- 4) If the child's school attendance has not improved after services have been provided to the child or the family declines services from Goodhue County Health & Human Services, Goodhue Health & Human Services will send a referral to the Goodhue County Attorney's Office requesting that a petition be filed to bring the case into Court.



What is Truancy?

Truancy is a violation of Minnesota law that requires all children between the ages of 7-17 years to attend school.

A child is considered to be a "continuing truant" if they have 3 unexcused absences in elementary school or miss 3 or more class periods on 3 days in middle and high school.

A child is considered to be a "habitual truant" if they have 7 unexcused absences in elementary school or miss 1 or more class periods on 7 days in middle and high school.

Absences

A parent/guardian may apply to a school district to have their child excused from attending school for any part of time that school is in session. A school has the right to accept or deny a parent/guardian's application for an excused absence.

"Excused Absences" include:

- Illness (as outlined in each school's handbook);
- Medical or dental visits, including therapy or counseling for mental health;
- Religious holidays; or
- Family emergencies (such as death or serious illness of an immediate family member).

"Unexcused Absences" include:

- Staying home to babysit or for other purposes;
- Work or rest because of work;
- Travel/vacation;
- Cold weather when school is not closed/canceled;
- Missing the bus; or
- A child has not been immunized.