



Why do students skip school?

Attendance is important for schools. Your child has to be in school to take advantage of all the opportunities education has to offer.

Students skip school for many reasons. It could be due to trouble at school or home, or personal problems. Reasons may include:

- Bullying problems that make students afraid to go to school.
- Learning difficulties.
- Domestic violence or parents' divorce.
- Falling in with the "wrong crowd."
- Mental health problems.
- Safety issues such as violence near home or on the way from school to home.
- Negative role models, such as friends who skip school.
- Lack of parent commitment to education.

Teach your child that skipping school for any reason only creates more problems.

Also, make sure your child knows he or she can come to you with any problems.

Contact

Contact the Truancy Intervention Program. The Village Family Service Center's Truancy Intervention Program works with children and their parents in all public schools, K-12, in Clay County, Minn. The program is FREE, and will help you keep your child in school.

To take advantage of the program, contact Janessa Berndt, TIP Coordinator, at 218-284-2402.



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STUDENT ATTENDANCE

What Every Parent Should Know



What is T.I.P.?

The Village Family Service Center's Truancy Intervention Program (T.I.P.) promotes school attendance by working with elementary-age children and their families to prevent absenteeism.

A family advocate, available in all Clay County Schools, supports and assists families when school attendance is a concern. A family advocate will:

- Assure children's success in school by supporting families in maintaining regular school attendance.
- Identify barriers to consistent school attendance, and help children and families create a plan that addresses these barriers.
- Foster communication between parents and the school through home visits and contacts.
- Identify family strengths and build on these to assure school attendance.
- Identify family needs and provide easy access to community services.
- Improve relationships between families, schools and the community.



What can you do about it?

You play a big role in your child's school success. Here are some things you can do to encourage your child to attend school:

- Make sure your child knows he or she can come to you with any problems.
- Create a love of learning by making reading a part of your home life.
- Make homework a priority and check your child's homework.
- When your child skips school, take steps to deal with it right away.
- Stay in close contact with the school to monitor your child's attendance.
- Teach your child that skipping school for any reason only creates more problems.

Set limits.

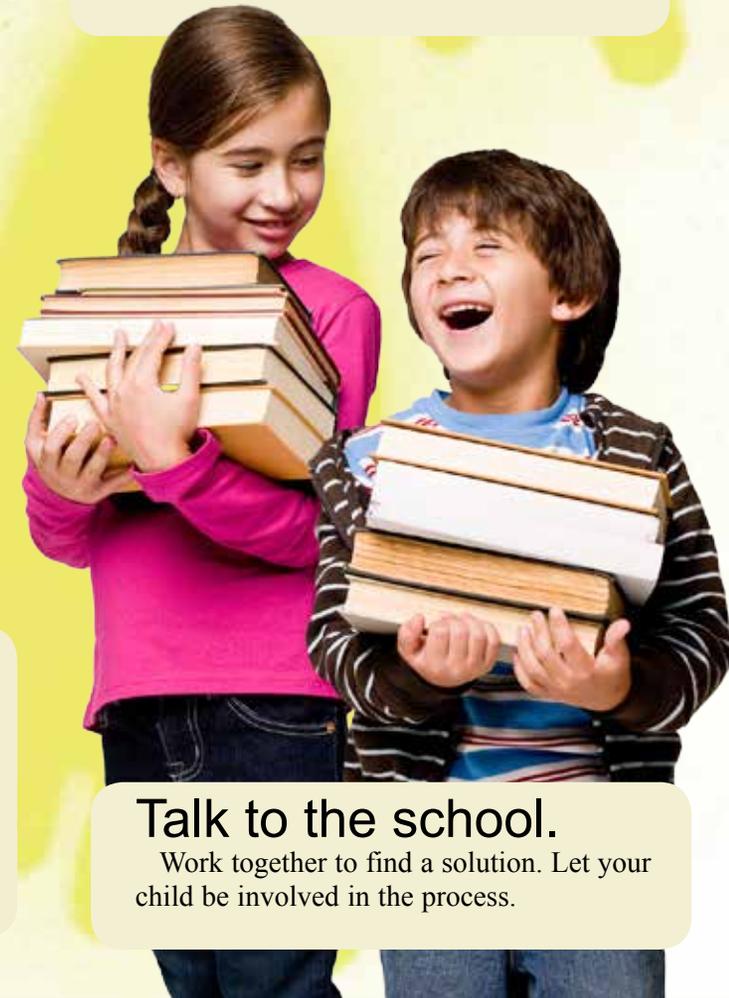
If your child is struggling with homework, monitor the time he or she spends doing things like watching TV, surfing the Internet, playing video games, working at part-time jobs, participating in after-school activities.

Take action.

For example, your child may need more supervision, after-school tutoring, counseling, or an evaluation to determine if he or she has a learning disability.

Talk with your child.

Try to find out why he or she doesn't want to go to school.



Talk to the school.

Work together to find a solution. Let your child be involved in the process.

