# School Responsibility

- Identify students with poor attendance early (more than ten absences/tardies).
- Document every action taken in dealing with excessive student absences. Keep a record of all contacts with parents and/or the child.
- Exhaust all efforts to help the student before considering the Early Truancy Intervention process.
- Contact or refer parent to other organizations such as Youth Assistance, Community Mental Health, individual, group and/or family counseling, etc. who can assist in ensuring the child gets a proper education.
- If your efforts fail, complete the Oakland County Early Truancy Intervention Program Referral Form (found on the Oakland Schools Truancy Website). The referral form identifies the information schools must provide.

*Oakland Schools does not discriminate on the basis of sex, race, color, national origin, religion, height, weight, marital status, sexual orientation (subject to the limits of applicable law), age, genetic information, or disability in its programs, services, activities or employment opportunities. Inquiries related to employment discrimination should be directed to the Director of Human Resources at 248.209.2059, 2111 Pontiac Lake Road, Waterford, MI 48328-2736. For all other inquiries related to discrimination, contact the Director of Legal Affairs at 248.209.2062, 2111 Pontiac Lake Road, Waterford, MI 48328-2736.*

6/12

## Oakland County Truancy Task Force Member Agencies

Brandon School District

CARE House

Catholic Charities of Southeast Michigan

Common Ground

Easter Seals

Novi Police Department

Oakland County Circuit Court
Family Division

Oakland County, DHS, CPS

Oakland Family Services

Oakland County Department of
Health and Human Services
Children's Village
Oakland County Health Division

Oakland County Probation Department

Oakland County Prosecutor,
Juvenile Justice Division

Oakland County Sheriff's Department

Oakland County Youth Assistance

Oakland Schools
Truancy
Wraparound/Homeless

Oxford Community Schools

School District of the City of Pontiac

School District of the City of Royal Oak

South Lyon Community School District

Waterford School District

OaklandSchools
Learning today. Transforming tomorrow.

# Oakland County Truancy Program

*An informational guide prepared by Oakland Schools Government & Community Services*

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www.oakland.k12.mi.us

# Oakland County's Early Truancy Intervention Protocol

Lack of school attendance is a concern in Oakland County. Children cannot succeed in our society without a good education.

Truancy is the first sign that a student is in trouble at home and at school. Truancy is one of the most powerful predictors of juvenile delinquency.

The Oakland County Prosecutor, the school superintendents of the 28 school districts in Oakland County, and Oakland Schools have joined in partnership to develop the Early Truancy Intervention Program. This is a collaborative effort to help children who are not regularly attending school.

In addition, Oakland Schools has created the Oakland County Truancy Task Force comprised of members from the court, the Prosecutor's office, Child Protective Services, school districts and community groups to promote the three A's - **A**ttendance, **A**ttachment and **A**chievement.

## The Three A's

**A***ttendance*
**A***ttachment*
**A***chievement*

# Compulsory School Attendance Law

**MCL 380.1561**

- Parents, guardians or others in charge of a child between 6-16 years* of age must send the child to school.
- The child's attendance must be continuous and consecutive for the entire school year.
- The school should use available resources to document its efforts to improve a child's attendance before making a referral through the protocol.
- The Oakland County Truant Officer gets involved when a child is repeatedly absent and the school's efforts to improve the child's attendance fail.
- The truant officer will send a letter to the parent and attempt to meet with the parent and school.
- If the truant officer's efforts fail, the case is referred to the Prosecutor's office.
- The Prosecutor may prepare a petition to be filed with the Family Court.
- The Family Court has several options, including placement of the child at Children's Village.

**6-18 years of age for children who turn 11 years old on or after December 1, 1998 or who were in the 6th grade in 2009 or later.*

# Parent Responsibility

- Make every effort to get your child to school every day.
- If there are school or family issues preventing your child's school attendance, contact your school immediately.
- Make sure your child has a valid excuse when he/she is not in school.
- Cooperate with school officials when addressing any attendance problem.

For more information,
visit our website at
www.oakland.k12.mi.us
keyword: Truancy