

# WHAT CAN A PARENT DO TO KEEP A STUDENT IN SCHOOL?

An unsuccessful and often unhappy student affects the whole family. When a student drops out of school, everyone is affected: the student, the parents, the school, and the community. **So, what can a parent do?**

## **Focus on student goals:**

Have your child identify what they want to get from their school experience. Have them list the barriers to reaching this goal.

## **Encourage school involvement:**

Encourage your child to attend school regularly and to be involved in at least one extra-curricular activity at school or with groups of students who are currently in school. Build your child's self-confidence as a student by recognizing when they do well in school.

## **Be involved with your child's education:**

Visit your child's school and get to know the staff. Be familiar with the school absentee policy and explain the policies to your child. Parents and school staff must work together as a team to keep kids in school.

## **Identify Special Needs:**

Consult with your school personnel to determine if your student might have a specific learning or behavior disability interfering with learning.

## **Remember the school is there to help:**

Many factors affect the child's ability to get to school on time. If there are problems that are keeping your child out of school, the school may be able to help. Schools have access to a large number of resources that may help you with keeping your child in school.



**MONTCALM AREA  
INTERMEDIATE  
SCHOOL DISTRICT**

 [jjirani@maisd.com](mailto:jjirani@maisd.com)

 +616-225-6266

 +989-831-8727

 621 New Street  
PO Box 367  
Stanton, MI 48888

 [www.maisd.com](http://www.maisd.com)

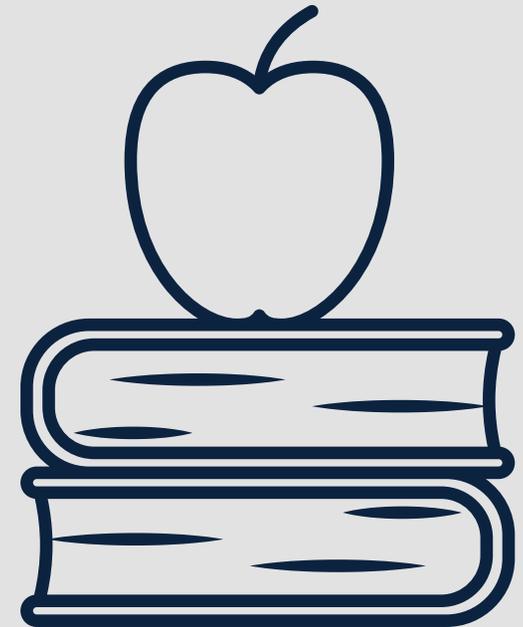
## **Montcalm Area ISD Truancy Program**

This is a county wide truancy program in partnership with our local school districts, Montcalm Department of Human Services, Montcalm County Probate Court, Montcalm County Prosecuting Attorney's Office, and Montcalm Area ISD.

We are dedicated to  
keeping kids in school.  
Attend today. Achieve tomorrow.

Serving Carson City-Crystal,  
Central Montcalm, Greenville, Lakeview,  
Montabella, Tri County,  
Vestaburg, Flat River Academy,  
and Success Virtual Learning Centers.

# ATTEND TODAY. ACHIEVE TOMORROW.



## DID YOU KNOW...

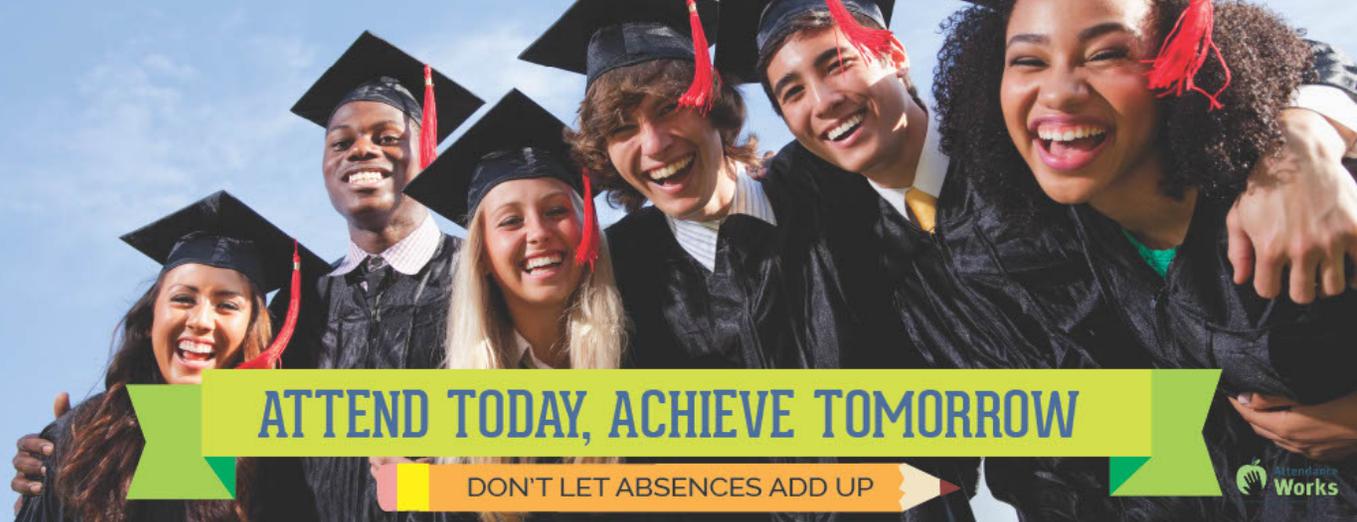
...Children who have a high level of absenteeism stand a greater chance of dropping out and never receiving a diploma?

...90% of all children in detention for delinquent acts have a history of truancy/absenteeism?

...87% of the current prison population has a history of truancy?

...Children who fail to receive their high school diplomas can expect to receive half the annual income in their adult years as those who have their high school diploma?

Michigan State Compulsory School Attendance Law states in SEC 1561: (1) Except as otherwise provided in this section, every parent, guardian or other person in this state having control/charge of a child from age six to the child's eighteenth birthday shall send that child to a public school during the entire school year. The child's attendance shall be continuous and consecutive for the school year fixed by the school district in which the child is enrolled.



## MONTCALM AREA ISD TRUANCY POLICY

Research has found that truancy patterns begin as early as Kindergarten. Students who miss too much school often struggle throughout their academic career. Therefore, **this program is cumulative from year to year. The only options are to improve attendance and therefore avoid moving on to the next step or continue being truant until you, your child, or both of you are referred to court.** For your sake and for the future of your child, please take this process seriously and keep your child in school.

In 2007, Montcalm County agencies implemented this process to help deal with poor school attendance (truancy). Here is what you can expect to happen:

Once your child has accumulated **three (3) unexcused absences**, the school truancy referral process will be started. You will receive a letter, phone call, home visit, or possibly all three, to alert you that your child is missing too much school. The school may refer to Department of Human Services for prevention/intervention and/or may request MAISD Truancy Officer intervention.

After **five (5) accumulated unexcused absences**, the school refers the case to MAISD Truancy Officer for follow up.

After **eight (8) accumulated unexcused absences**, the school and MAISD Truancy Officer refer the student/parent truancy case to the Prosecuting Attorney for judicial review/action.