

## ***“Truancy is not to be taken lightly”***

As a parent or caregiver, the law obligates you to make sure that your child attends school. A parent or caregiver who fails to meet this obligation may be guilty of an infraction and subject to criminal prosecution pursuant to the **Illinois Education Code Compulsory Attendance (105 ILCS 5/26-2a)**.

### **What is a valid cause for a school absence?**

- a. Illness
- b. Observance of a religious holiday
- c. Death in immediate family
- d. Family emergency
- e. Other situations beyond the control of the student as determined by the district's board of education

### **What is a “Truant?”**

#### **(105 ILCS 5/26-2a) Sec. 26-2a.**

A "truant" is defined as a child subject to compulsory school attendance and who is absent without valid cause from such attendance for a school day or portion thereof.

### **What is a “Chronic truant?”**

A child at compulsory attendance age who has accumulated 5% or more unexcused absences of the previous **180 regular attendance days**.

**(105 ILCS 5/26-1) Sec. 26-1. Compulsory School Age** - Whoever has custody or control of any child between the ages of **6** and **17** years shall cause such child to attend some public school in the district wherein the child resides the entire time it is in session during the regular school term.

### **The following steps will be taken to improve attendance.**



**STEP 1:** Three (3) unexcused absences: A letter from your child's school documenting unexcused absences



**STEP 2:** Six (6) unexcused absences: Mandatory meeting with Local Truancy Review Board



**STEP 3:** Nine (9) unexcused absences: Noncompliance notification sent to St. Clair Regional Office of Education



**STEP 4:** Notice to Appear at a Regional Truancy Review Board Hearing for Purpose of Corrective Action



**STEP 5:** Failure to attend Regional Truancy Review Board Hearing or Noncompliance to ROE Agreement: **COURT APPEARANCE**

#### **(105 ILCS 5/26-10) Sec. 26-10. Fine for Noncompliance.**

Any person having custody or control of a child subject to the provisions of this Article to whom notice has been given of the child's truancy and who knowingly and willfully permits such a child to persist in his truancy within that school year, upon conviction thereof shall be guilty of a **Class C misdemeanor** and shall be subject to not more than **30 days of imprisonment and/or a fine of up to \$500**.