

# **IF YOU MISS SCHOOL . . . YOU WILL MISS OUT!!**



**Springfield Public Schools**  
**Kraft Administrative Building**  
**1359 E. St. Louis, Springfield, MO 65802**  
**Attendance Department: 523-0064 Fax 523-0099**

## **WHAT DOES THE MISSOURI LAW SAY ABOUT SCHOOL ATTENDANCE?**

“A parent, guardian or other person...having charge control, or custody of child between the ages of seven and sixteen years of age shall cause the child to attend regularly some public, private, parochial, parish, home school or a combination of such schools not less than the entire term of the school which the child attends...” (R.S. MO.167.031)

Failure to comply with the Missouri Compulsory Attendance Law is a class C misdemeanor. Such an offense carries a maximum penalty of fifteen days in the Greene County Jail, and a \$300.00 fine.

## **WHAT DOES THE SCHOOL DISTRICT SAY ABOUT SCHOOL ATTENDANCE?**

“Regular and punctual attendance is required of each student enrolled in the school district. Students are required to maintain a good attendance record, because there is a direct relationship between school attendance and achievement, citizenship, and success in school.

Each student is required to attend school every school day except when illness, injury, or some other condition beyond the student’s control prevents attendance. Students and their parents/guardians should make every effort to keep student absences and tardies to a minimum. After returning to school, students are expected to make up work missed because of absence.

A student who is truant from school or absent from school without a satisfactory excuse shall be subject to the Student Disciplinary Guidelines of the school district. In addition, absences, which are considered to be in violation of Missouri’s compulsory attendance law, shall be referred to the Greene County Prosecutor’s Office for enforcement. For purposes of the Missouri compulsory attendance law, the term “attend..on a regular basis” shall mean that the student has not been absent from school without satisfactory excuse or truant from school more than eight (8) school days or partial school days during the school year.”

## **WHAT IS EDUCATIONAL NEGLECT?**

When parents/guardians neglect, or refuse to provide, proper or necessary education for their children. Parents/guardians send children double messages when children miss school to take care of family members, do household chores, trips, visits by friends/relatives, and extending the weekend by missing Monday or Friday. The message sent is saying that is okay to stay out of school for convenience

## **WHEN SHOULD I KEEP MY SICK CHILD HOME?**

Schools must be contacted first thing in the morning, by the parent/guardian, when a student is absent. Failure to do so will result in the student being truant, and an attendance advisor will make contact by a home visit. Students should stay home when they are ill with a fever of above 100 degrees, nausea, vomiting, diarrhea; persistent earache, running ear, coughing, sore throat or symptoms related to communicable diseases (skin rashes, redness of eyes, swollen glands, etc.)

The best rule of thumb when deciding whether or not to send sick children to school is to observe them carefully and check with your child’s doctor and/or school nurse. If children are alert and behaving normally, there is no reason to keep them home.

## **WHAT CAN PARENTS/GUARDIANS DO?**

Children need to learn how to become responsible for their actions. Going to school, every day must become one of their early responsibilities. Youngsters must take responsibility for their own learning. With patience, perseverance and lots of loving encouragement, parents can help their children succeed in school and beyond by developing a home environment that is conducive to learning. Parents can help by doing the following:

- Be good role models.
- Establish orderly rules and maintain them.
- Let children know clearly, what is expected of them.
- Establish family rules to fit the needs of the household. As children grow older and needs change, so will the rules. However, regardless of the household needs, it is important that a child remain a child whose primary “job” is learning.
- Give children appropriate responsibilities so that they know they are capable, contributing family members.
- Recognize and praise effort and accomplishment.
- Establish priorities. Be sure to include a set homework/study time and place.
- Be a good listener.
- Meet with your children’s teachers.
- Encourage your children to become creative and develop their talents.

When parents establish daily routines, pay attention to school matters, participate in reading activities, monitor television, and get involved with homework, they are contributing to the development of responsible learners.

**For more information and assistance in establishing good school attendance habits for your children, contact your school. The school staff and attendance advisor are there to help you in any way.**

### **HELPFUL ATTENDANCE WEB SITES:**

**International Association for Truancy and Dropout Prevention – [www.iatdp.org](http://www.iatdp.org)**

**National Center for School Engagement – [www.truancy prevention.org](http://www.truancy prevention.org)**

**Northwest Regional Educational Laboratory – [www.nwrel.org](http://www.nwrel.org)**

**National Truancy Prevention Association – [www.truancy prevention association.com](http://www.truancy prevention association.com)**

**National Dropout Prevention Centers – [www.dropout prevention.org](http://www.dropout prevention.org)**