

Beaver County Truancy Prevention Program

Academic achievement scores are correlated with school attendance, which makes sense because students who are not at school cannot receive instruction. **Student absences jeopardize student and school success.**

Furthermore, excessive school absence is linked to the risk of school dropout and to juvenile delinquency.

Unexcused absences constitute a summary offense under the Pennsylvania Public School Code for which penalties may be imposed against the parent, guardian, etc. In an attempt to decrease school truancy, we are proud to partner with the Beaver County Children and Youth Services and the Office of Juvenile Services as part of the TIPS program.

When student attendance becomes an area of concern, families are invited to attend an attendance meeting with representatives of Hopewell Memorial Junior High School and the Offices of Juvenile Services and Children and Youth Services. The purpose of this meeting is to be **proactive** in combating truancy by identifying the factors that have resulted in absenteeism as well as possible solutions and available resources to students and their families. The [TIPS Program Brochure](#) outlines the program and the goals of the program. **Families who choose not to attend will be charged before the District Magistrate without further notice from school authorities following the next unexcused absence.**

Questions or concerns about the TIPS program can be directed to the Guidance Counselors or Administration.



Tips for Parents to Avoid Truancy

- ✓ As a family, emphasize the importance of education.
- ✓ Register for Power School Parent Portal access to monitor your child's daily attendance.
- ✓ Identify, with your child, specific academic goals for the current school year.
- ✓ Make time each day to speak with your daughter/son about their school day.
- ✓ Assist your child with the development of quality study habits. Coordinate a daily routine for completion of homework and/or studying for tests/quizzes. When and if your child encounters a problem, do not hesitate to assist. However, allow them to work through the problem. Providing your child with the solution will only reinforce their need for your assistance.
- ✓ Recognize your child's accomplishments and encourage them during times of need.
- ✓ Set aside time to meet and/or communicate with your child's teachers. An open line of communication can certainly provide a parent/guardian with valuable insight regarding their child's academic progress and social interactions.
- ✓ Seek assistance for your child when he/she encounters difficulties with a specific subject. Failure to act on this need can undermine a child's desire to attend school.
- ✓ Make it a point to familiarize yourself with your daughters/son's friends and classmates. These children may in some way influence your child's school performance.
- ✓ Seek assistance if your child is lacking friendships or encountering relationship problems while at school. Conflicts or feeling isolated can lead to a decline in academic performance and self-esteem concerns.
- ✓ Encourage your child to become involved in extracurricular school affiliated activities.
- ✓ Familiarize yourself with the symptoms of teenage drug and alcohol abuse. Seek assistance for any noticeable signs that your child might display.
- ✓ Stress the importance of always doing your best in working towards obtaining a high school diploma.