

Understanding Illinois' truancy law

Did you know that if your child has too many unexcused absences, you could be charged with a Class C misdemeanor, punishable by up to 30 days in jail and a monetary fine?

In July 2012, the truancy law in Illinois became much stricter. A child enrolled in school can miss no more than 5% of the school year.

If a student begins to miss too much school, the school will attempt to contact the parents/guardians. If attendance does not improve, the student may be referred to the I-KAN Regional Office of Education's Attendance Assistance Program where an assigned truancy caseworker will monitor attendance.

If the child's attendance does not improve significantly, parents/guardians may be ticketed and may be required to appear before the local Truancy Review Board.

It's a fact:

School attendance is essential starting in Kindergarten.

Missing too much school during kindergarten can lower achievement in 1st grade and for some students, the repercussions can linger through 5th grade.

Know your school's attendance policy!

If your child is absent due to illness or for any other reason, call the school first thing in the morning to let them know. Unreported absences will be marked unexcused.

Keep your student's school phone number in a easy to access place:

School: Bonfield Grade
Phone: 815-933-6995

School: Herscher Intermediate
Phone: 815-426-2242

School: Limestone Middle
Phone: 815-933-2243

School: Herscher High
Phone: 815-426-2103

Please bring in all required doctor's notes the first day your child returns to school.



Herscher CUSD #2
501 N Main Street
PO Box 504
Herscher IL 60941
District Phone: 815-421-5000

Be cool — Be in school !

On time; All day; Every day!



Miss School ... Miss Out !



Herscher CUSD #2
Parent Guide

When is 'sick' TOO sick for school ?



Send me to school if ...

I have a runny nose or just a little cough, but no other symptoms.

I haven't taken any fever reducing medicine during the last 24 hours and I haven't ran a fever during that same period of time.

I haven't thrown up or had any diarrhea during the last 24 hours.



Keep me home if ...

I have a temperature higher than 99.6 degrees even after taking fever reducing medicine.

I am throwing up or have diarrhea or if I have within the last 24 hours.

My eyes are pink and crusty.



Call the doctor if ...

I have had a temperature higher than 99.6 degrees for more than two days.

I have been throwing up or have had diarrhea for more than two days.

I have had a runny nose for more than a week and it's not getting better.

Did you know that students can fall behind even if they miss "just a day or two" of school every few weeks?

A few tips on what parents can do to ensure their children attend regularly:

1. Establish routines. Set bedtime and morning routines. For younger kiddos, lay out clothes the night before.
2. Teach your children about the importance of attendance. Don't make appointments during the school day.
3. Talk to your child. If your child doesn't want to go to school, find out why. Work with teachers to help motivate them.
4. Develop backup plans for getting to school. Find someone you can rely on to get your children to school if something comes up.
5. Reach out for help if you are experiencing tough times. If problems with transportation, housing, jobs or health are making it harder to get your children to school, remember school officials, doctors and community agencies can help.



Additionally, call a doctor if I still have asthma symptoms after using my asthma medicine.

Call 911 if I'm having trouble breathing after using my inhaler!