

WHAT IS TRUANCY?

❖ **Any unexcused absence from school is considered truancy**, but states enact their own school attendance laws.

State law determines:

1. The age at which a child is required to begin attending school
2. The age at which a child may legally drop out of school
3. The number of unexcused absences at which a student is considered legally truant

❖ **Truancy is a status offense.**

This means that truancy is a crime due to the young age of the actor, but would not be illegal for someone older. The other most common status offenses are *running away from home, alcohol use, and curfew violations.*

The Process

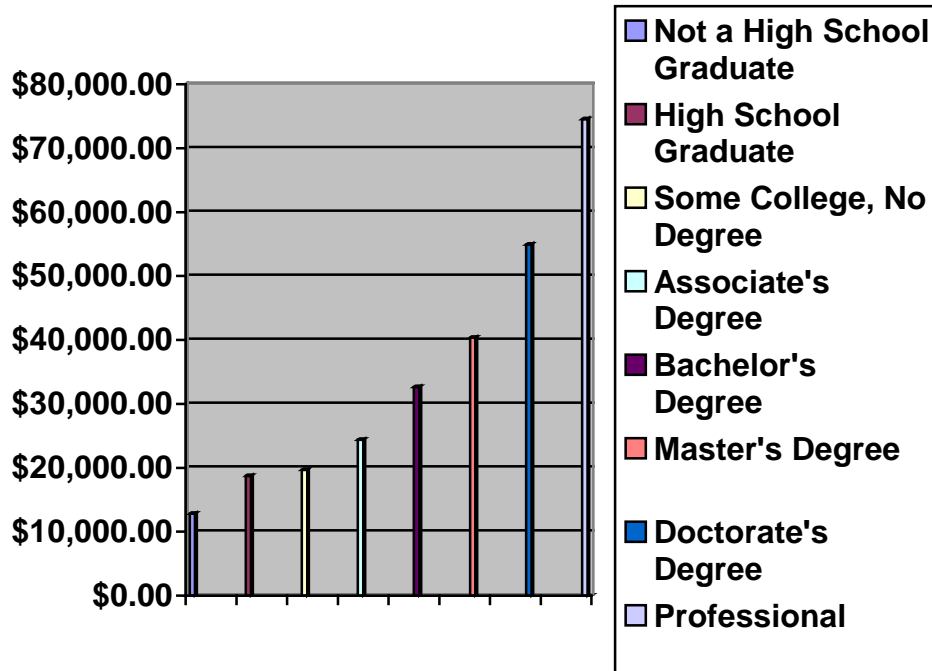
(Students over 12 yrs old)

- ❖ The **Board of Education** determines that the Truancy Reduction Pilot Program would be an appropriate intervention and files a petition with the Circuit Court.
- ❖ The student, parent/guardian, and the Board of Education are summoned to appear before the Court.
- ❖ The Judge or Master reviews the records and information offered by the Board of Education, student, and parent/guardian in making their decision
 - *A student and parent/guardian are entitled to obtain private counsel at any stage of the process*
- ❖ If the student is **adjudicated** truant, they are ordered to attend school. A student and the family are often ordered to attend a full family assessment to be completed by New Transitions. This assessment is designed to help identify underlying causes of truant behavior and make recommendations.
 - *Hearings are held regularly to provide guidance and supervision. As the student progress through the program, hearings are held less frequently.*
 - *Improvement in attendance and other achievements are recognized and reinforced.*
- ❖ Upon demonstrating consistent, sustained improvement in attendance and compliance with services, the student will be recognized as having successfully completed the Truancy Reduction Pilot Program.
 - *Cases generally remains open 6-9 months, but are individualized to the student and family.*

Notes:

Importance of School

- ❖ As illustrated below, attending and completing school can have a big impact on your future earnings.



- ❖ Attending school regularly allows students to gain knowledge and skills to achieve goals.
- ❖ School exposes you to new experiences and helps you develop interests, hobbies, and skills.
- ❖ Attending school regularly means more than just being in the building. It allows you to take advantage of all opportunities available to you.
- ❖ Attending school regularly and getting good grades allow you to participate in sports and other activities inside and after school.

**Truant students are at risk for:*

- ❖ Educational failure (suspension, expulsion, or dropout)
- ❖ Social isolation
- ❖ Substance abuse
- ❖ Low self-esteem
- ❖ Unwanted pregnancy
- ❖ Unemployment
- ❖ Violence
- ❖ Adult crime or prison

** According to NACE website*

ACTIVITIES

List 10 of your strengths.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.
- 7.
- 8.
- 9.
- 10.

List 10 of your challenges.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.
- 7.
- 8.
- 9.
- 10.

List of Interests or things you might like to try.

ACTIVITIES

DEFINE LEVELS OF EDUCATION

1. GED.
2. HIGH SCHOOL DIPOLMA.
3. ASSOCIATE'S DEGREE.
4. BACHELOR'S DEGREE.
5. MASTER'S DEGREE.
6. DOCTORIAL DEGREE. (PH.D)

WEBSITES AND REFERENCES

U.S. Department of Labor

Bls.gov/oco/home.htm

- Occupational Outlook Handbook

www.bewhatiwanttobe.com

www.themint.org

www.careervoyages.com

www.jumpstart.org/madmoney/pgv_money_rc_main.html

- Reality Check Activity

www.webpages.vidaho.edu/~pathways/survey.htm