

Jerard M. Jarzynka
Prosecuting Attorney



312 S. Jackson Street
Jackson, MI 49201

OFFICE OF THE PROSECUTING ATTORNEY

August 1, 2016

Dear Parent/Guardian:

As the Prosecuting Attorney for Jackson County, I have a real interest in children who do not attend school as it has been shown that children who do not attend school are more likely to have criminal behaviors as a teenager or adult. A person who has little or no education will likely have a tough time finding a job. Getting an education is one of the most important things that anyone can do for their own future success and for the success of our community.

Michigan law requires all children from the age of six to eighteen to attend school. This letter is being sent to you because it is important for you to understand that it is the legal responsibility of the parents and guardians of children to ensure they go to school for the whole school year. **When your child has 10 or more unexcused absences they are considered truant and you may be required to attend a court hearing.**

Examples of acceptable and unacceptable reasons for a child not being in school include, but are not limited to, the list below:

Excused Absences:

- Sickness*
- Doctor appointment
- Religious holidays
- Extreme family Emergency
- Lice (3 days)
- Funeral (2 days)

Unexcused Absences:

- Sickness*
- Too tired
- Travel
- Missed bus or kicked off bus
- Child is not immunized
- Staying home to baby-sit
- Chronic lice (over 5 days)
- Overslept
- Weather
- Needed at home

*Sickness may or may not be acceptable as determined by your district's school code of conduct.

If you have any questions about the type of absence your child has, please call your school's principal.

Our goal is to keep children in school so they can learn all of the things that will make them successful adults and keep them out of the criminal justice system. Getting an education is one of the best tools in our community's effort to reduce crime. For the future well-being of **your** children and **your** community, I urge you to help make sure our children are in school.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jerard M. Jarzynka".

Jerard M. Jarzynka
Prosecuting Attorney