



**What is Truant Conduct?**

If a student who is **at least 12 years** and **under 19 years of age** fails to attend school on **ten** or more days or parts of days in a six month period within the same school year, they are considered “truant” and may be referred to a Truancy Court.

**What does Texas law say about school attendance?**

- Children are required to attend school regularly from **ages 6-18**.
- Parents have a legal responsibility to ensure their children attend school.
- A **criminal complaint** may be filed against a **parent** whose child exhibits truant conduct for the offense of **Parent Contributing to Nonattendance**.
- A **petition** may be filed against a **student** in a Truancy Court for truant conduct.

**How can you identify at-risk students in your classroom?**

Students at-risk for developing attendance issue may exhibit many signs, including:

- Poor class attendance
- Poor grades, lack of class participation
- An overall negative attitude towards school
- Social isolation
- Low self-esteem, anxiety, or inattentiveness

**What can you do to help students struggling in your classroom?**

**GET INVOLVED:** Ask students why they have been absent from your class.

**BE PROACTIVE:** Contact the parents of students exhibiting at-risk behaviors.

**PROVIDE INFORMATION:** Maintain accurate attendance reports and notify school personnel if you notice at-risk behaviors in a student.

**GET INFORMED:** Find out what resources are available for students and their families.

**BE A RESOURCE:** Link students to services at your campus and in the community.