

More Tips

- Learn to identify the symptoms of teenage drug and alcohol abuse.
- Seek treatment for any drug or alcohol issues that your child may have.
- Take time to discuss issues, subjects and course materials being covered at school.
- Help your child develop an interest in extracurricular school activities such as sports, band, clubs, etc.
- Get involved with the P.T.A. or school board.

Questions

If you have questions, or want more information:

1. Call your School District.
2. Call the Prosecutor's Office at (206) 296-9035.
3. Call Juvenile Court at (206) 205-2527 or 205-9716.
4. Go to the Prosecutor's Office Web page at www.metrokc.gov/proatty and click on Truancy.

Parent Resources

Family Reconciliation Services	1-800-562-5624
Children's Home Society	206-695-3200
Youth Eastside Services	425-747-4937
Crisis Line	1-800-244-5767
Peace Council Mediation	206-328-5908
Seattle Mental Health	206-324-0206
Valley Cities Counseling	253-939-4055

Alternative Formats

206-296-9067 TTY Relay: 711

or e-mail becky.gifford@metrokc.gov

Stopping Truancy Before It Starts



Tips for Improving School Attendance



A publication of the
King County Prosecuting Attorney's Office
Norm Maleng, Prosecuting Attorney

King County Prosecuting Attorney

Norm Maleng has made truancy prevention one of his administration's top priorities. The Prosecutor's Office is committed to working with parents, schools, and the community to keep kids in school and stop truant behavior before it starts.

The truancy process can be complex. Avoid court by getting help before truancy becomes a problem. If you have any questions or would like more information about Washington State's truancy laws contact the Prosecutor's Office at 206-296-9035 or contact your school district directly.

Tips For Improving School Attendance

- Make education a family priority and emphasize the important role education plays throughout life.
- Help your child develop good study and work habits.
- Schedule daily home study time. Help with homework when needed.
- Get your child tutorial help with subjects that pose learning difficulties.
- Help your child develop and achieve academic goals.
- Develop a phone-in policy with the school to check on the child's daily attendance, or have the person in charge of school attendance alert you about non-attendance.
- Explain how dropouts have more trouble getting and keeping jobs and make half as much money as graduates.
- Self-confidence is important. Recognize when your child does well in school and other activities.
- Meet your child's teachers and other school personnel. They can provide important insights into the child's school performance and suggest ways for improvement.
- Get to know your child's friends and classmates. They can influence your child's school performance. Lack of friends or problems with classmates can also affect school performance.