

COMPULSORY ATTENDANCE FACT SHEET - UPPER DAUPHIN AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

STAGE ONE PREVENTION

- Daily attendance calls are made for all absences.
- Students who receive any unlawful absences will receive a warning letter.
- Discussion about the importance of attendance will be held during Discovery Class (5th through 12th grade).

Under Commonwealth of Pennsylvania Law (24 P.S. 13-1327), compulsory school age begins at age 6 and continues until the child reaches 18 years of age. Compulsory Attendance means that a child of compulsory school age must attend school or one of the allowable alternatives except as follows: Illness, quarantine, family emergency, recovery from accident, required court attendance, death in family, family educational trips and educational tours and trips with prior approval, and other administratively approved reasons.

Definition of Truant – A student of compulsory school age who has accumulated **three or more days of unlawful absences** during the current school year.

STAGE TWO TRUANT

- School Attendance Improvement Conference is held.
- School Attendance Improvement Plan is created.
- Referral to services such as the Check and Connect Program, Student Assistance Program (SAP), social worker, Attendance Officer, or some combination thereof.

STAGE THREE HABITUALLY TRUANT

- Continuation of Stage Two School Attendance Improvement Plan.
- Potential referral to Dauphin County Social Services for Children and Youth.
- Citation filed with Magisterial District Judge.
- Potential referral to UDASD Attendance Officer.

Definition of Habitually Truant – A student of compulsory school age who has accumulated **six or more days of unlawful absences** during the current school year.

STAGE FOUR CONTINUED HABITUAL TRUANCY

- Gone through other stages and continue to have absences or ten (10) unlawful absences.
- Meeting of UDASD Attendance Officer, Building Principal, and Guidance Counselor to decide on next steps.

NEGATIVE OUTCOMES FROM ATTENDANCE ISSUES

- By 3rd grade, poor attendance can influence a child's reading proficiency.
- By 6th grade, chronic absence becomes a leading indicator that a student will drop out.
- Missing just 10 percent of school days has been shown to negatively impact academic performance.
- When attendance improves, so does academic prospects and the student's chance of graduating.
(Attendance Works, 10 Facts About School Attendance)

To obtain assistance with attendance issues for children, please contact the Guidance Counselor or Building Principal of your child's school.
Elementary School: (717) 362-4511
Middle School: (717) 362-8177
High School: (717) 362-8181