

MARYLAND'S COMPULSORY ATTENDANCE LAW

Who Must Attend?

Every child between the ages of 5 and 16 shall attend a public school regularly during the entire school year unless otherwise enrolled in private school or home Instruction approved by Baltimore County Public Schools.

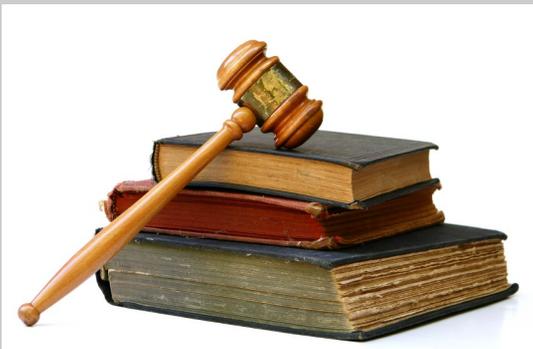
Duty of parent or guardian:

Each person who has under his/her custody a child between 5 and 16 years of age must see that the child attends school or receives instruction as required above.

Penalties:

A parent or guardian can be found guilty of a misdemeanor and subject to a fine not to exceed \$50 per day for unlawful absences of students or imprisonment not to exceed ten days or both.

Charges may be filed in the District Court of Maryland of Baltimore County.



DIPLOMA

DON'T LEAVE SCHOOL WITH OUT IT!



**Department of Student Support Services
Office of Pupil Personnel Services
9610 Pulaski Park Drive, Suite 219
Baltimore, Maryland 21220**

**Office: 410-887-0404
Fax: 410-918-1068**



School Attendance



BUILDING A BRIDGE TO THE FUTURE



**S. Dallas Dance, Ph.D.
Superintendent**

The Importance of Good Attendance

Children are in school to learn and grow into responsible, productive young adults prepared to enter the world of work. Regular school attendance is the key to high school graduation and preparation for gainful employment.

Poor attendance in elementary school often leads to excessive absences in middle and high school. Poor attenders become disinterested and unmotivated in school and often drop out.

Unlawful absences or truancies have been identified as one of the early warnings signs of students headed for potential delinquent activity, social problems, or failure in school. According to research, truancy frequently leads to dropping out of school, entering the juvenile court system, and unemployment. Dropouts who work typically earn lower salaries.

Truancy is a sign that a young person is losing his or her way and needs support. Pupil personnel workers and other school staff are available to provide that support.



RESPONSIBILITIES

Parent Responsibilities:

- Encourages student attendance by taking a positive approach to school and school activities.
- Reads the *Student Handbook* to review information about daily school attendance.
- Takes an active interest in your child's education by being positive and insisting on good attendance.
- Checks frequently with school personnel to be aware of your child's attendance and academic progress.
- Sends a written excuse to school on the same day that your child returns to school after being absent.

Student Responsibilities:

- Attends school and all classes on time each day.
- Participates in school work, prepare for all classes, complete all assignments, participate in class discussions, and follow directions given by your teachers.
- Takes responsibility for your actions and behavior.



RESPONSIBILITIES

School Responsibilities:

- Teacher takes daily attendance .
- Teacher codes students absences with the appropriate codes as mandated by MSDE.
- Teacher contacts the home to make the parents or guardians aware of attendance concerns.
- School administrator contacts the home for required parent conferences (RPC).
- School administrator, with assistance of the pupil personnel worker, establishes a school attendance committee.
- Teacher refers chronic attendance cases to the school counselor, school nurse, or appropriate school administrator.
- School administrator processes referrals to the pupil personnel worker.

Where Do You Go For Help?

Your child's teacher

School counselor

Principal

School nurse

School social worker

Pupil personnel worker

School psychologist