



# TRUANCY VS. CHRONIC ABSENTEEISM



## ***Q. What is truancy?***

A. Any unexcused absence according to school rules. Three unexcused absences will result in a notice sent home and possible legal action.

## ***Q: What is chronic absenteeism?***

A: Defined as missing 10% or more of a school year - including both excused and unexcused absences. This equates to 18 days per school year, or just 2 days per month.

### **TRUANCY**

- COUNTS ONLY UNEXCUSED ABSENCES
- EMPHASIZES COMPLIANCE WITH SCHOOL RULES

### **CHRONIC ABSENTEEISM**

- COUNTS ALL ABSENCES: EXCUSED, UNEXCUSED AND SUSPENSIONS
- EMPHASIZES ACADEMIC IMPACT OF MISSED DAYS

***Please remember: Chronic absenteeism and truancy are not mutually exclusive. A student can be both chronically absent AND truant.***



United Way of Erie County

## WHY DOES IT MATTER?

School attendance has a direct effect on students' academic performance. Research shows that chronically absent students are less likely to succeed in school, are more likely to be suspended, and are more likely to eventually drop out. In fact, 3 out of 4 sixth graders who are chronically absent will never graduate high school.

## WHY CAN YOU DO?

- Turn in a written excuse for any day your child misses school
- Keep in close communication with your child's teacher - they are there to help and support your child.
- Work with your school to identify any barriers your child may have - what is preventing them from attending school daily or wanting to attend school regularly?
- Have a back up plan for getting your child to school if you can't
- Emergencies happen so make sure you have a trusted person you can call for help.
- Finally, talk to your child about the importance of attending school daily. Students who attend school daily are more successful in school and are on track to graduate.

