

# DeKalb County Truancy Intervention Program

DeKalb County Regional Office of Education

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To Health Care providers of DeKalb County Students:

The DeKalb County Regional Office of Education and the DeKalb County Juvenile Justice Council have committed to the goal of increased attendance for all Kindergarten - Grade 12 students. Throughout the County, schools are reporting an increase in the number of truancy referrals. We feel it is important to work with families with their healthcare providers in order to establish positive patterns of attendance and address concerns that may prevent students from receiving an education.

In 2012, Illinois School Code was revised to include the following language: "a chronic or habitual truant" shall be defined as a child who is subject to compulsory school attendance and who is absent without valid cause from such attendance for 5% or more of the previous 180 school days. However, for early intervention purposes, the DeKalb County Truancy Intervention Program (DCTIP) requests all truancy referrals (chronic and non-chronic) when students have accrued five (5) unexcused absences.

Each school district in the County allows a parent or guardian to call in a limited number of excused absences, as set by school procedure. In order to excuse additional absences, the parent must provide an excuse from a health care provider or bring the child to school to have the school nurse verify symptoms.

Schools require medical documentation for students with excessive and/or extended absences. Once a student has established a pattern of excessive absences, healthcare providers are frequently contacted by parents to provide excuses for the student, even if he/she has not been under care. A medical excuse is only considered valid if a student has been seen in your office. The excuse must state the date and time of the appointment and if medically necessary, please list additional dates/times the student will be unable to attend school.

Please understand it is the responsibility of the parent or guardian to request, obtain and provide the medical excuse to the school. The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) does allow school personnel to verify medical excuses with your office staff, however a diagnosis is not required.

We value the partnership with our medical community and the shared goal of ensuring an education to all our youth.

Sincerely,

Amanda Christensen  
Regional Superintendent of Schools

Jeff Smith  
Assistant Superintendent of Schools  
DeKalb County Truancy Intervention Program Coordinator

The Honorable Robbin Stuckert  
Presiding Judge, DeKalb County

Donna Larson  
Juvenile Justice Council Chair

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Genoa-Kingston #424 ★ Indian Creek #425 ★ Hiawatha #426 ★ Sycamore #427 ★ DeKalb #428

Hinckley-Big Rock #429 ★ Sandwich #430 ★ Somonauk #432