



Wayne County Prosecutor Kym L. Worthy ERASE Truancy Program

(313) 833-3116

www.waynecounty.com/prosecutor/truancy.htm

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

The **ERASE** Truancy Program was initiated by the Wayne County Prosecutors Office to address chronic absenteeism of elementary-age children living in Wayne County.

The basic tenets of **ERASE** Truancy are:

1. Regular school attendance leads to higher academic achievement;
2. Education is a basic need for all children;
3. Education is the key to a successful future;
4. School attendance is mandatory; and
5. Parents of children who do not attend school as required by law will be petitioned to court for educational neglect if, despite **ERASE's** pre-court diversion efforts, attendance does not improve.

Elementary schools may refer any child living in Wayne County to the program who has been absent ten or more days during a school year without lawful excuse.

REFERRAL PROCEDURES

The ERASE Truancy Program works as follows:

- **When a child is absent ten (10) or more days without a valid excuse, the school Attendance Officer will investigate and notify the child's parent of a school meeting.**
- **If the parent fails to attend this meeting or continues to not send the child to school, the Attendance Officer sends a Formal Notice by mail requiring the parent/guardian to send the child to school the next day.**
- **If the parent fails to comply with the Formal Notice letter, the Attendance Officer makes a referral to the Wayne County Prosecutor. The Prosecutor then sends a warning letter to the parent informing them of the Compulsory Attendance Act and possible criminal prosecution.**
- **If the parent still fails to comply with the above steps, the Attendance Officer files a Complaint with the Prosecutor. The Prosecutor will review and issue a warrant for the parent charging educational neglect.**
- **If the parent fails to appear to answer charges, local law enforcement will make an arrest. The misdemeanor**