



Increasing Your Child's Commitment to School

Skipping school can take a devastating toll on a child's education. Often, it is the first sign that a child may drop out of school later. Early intervention can help strengthen your child's commitment to school and save your child from further consequences associated with truancy.

STRATEGIES THAT FAMILIES USE TO KEEP CHILDREN IN SCHOOL

- Stay involved with your child's school.
- Encourage your child to participate in one or more school activities.
- Set limits.
- Monitor your child's actions, whereabouts and feelings.
- Draw the line regarding peers.
- Send continuous positive messages to your child.
- Maintain that the parent is in charge.

WHAT PARENTS CAN DO

- **Stay in contact with your child's teachers to monitor progress and attendance.** Parent/teacher conferences are important, but if you sense there is a problem, don't wait; call the school. Teachers should know that you want them to call if they notice attendance problems.
- **Pay attention to how your child feels about school.** If you are hearing a lot of talk about being bored, being picked on or "hating" school, it may be time for a special meeting with the teacher. Together, you may be able to find ways to help your child feel more connected and excited about learning.
- **Talk about the future with your child.** Children may have a hard time understanding how what they are learning now will help them achieve their goals.
- **Demonstrate that school is important in your family.** Discuss and follow through on consequences for skipping school

For more online tip cards, visit www.KCSL.org under the "Resources" tab.



Kansas Children's Service League

Parenting questions? Call the Parent Helpline:
1-800-CHILDREN or email/text 1800children@kcsl.org

