

TRouBLING STATISTICS

- 70% of suspended youth are chronically truant in the previous 6 months.
- 97% of expelled youth are chronically truant in the previous year.
- 90% of youth in detention for delinquent acts were truant.
- 25% of all expelled youth will be in youth corrections within 1 year.

IMPACT OF EDUCATION ON SALARIES, WELFARE & INCARCERATION

Education and Earnings:

- * A high school graduate's lifetime income is 50-100% higher than a non graduate's.
- * Dropouts earn \$10,000 less a year than high school graduates and \$36,000 less than college graduates.
- * The poverty rate for dropouts is over twice as high as college graduates.
- * The unemployment rate for dropouts is 4 points higher than the national average.

Education and Welfare:

- * High School dropouts are 85% *more likely* to be on welfare
- * Half of all Americans on public assistance are dropouts.

Education and Incarceration:

- * High School dropouts are 14% *more likely* to be incarcerated than those with a high school diploma
- * Over 80% of the incarcerated population are high school dropouts
- * 75% of crimes are committed by high school dropouts

Data Sources:

National Center for School Engagement
Campaign for College Opportunity
DoSomething.org EdWeek.org

“EDUCATION IS THE MOST POWERFUL WEAPON WHICH YOU CAN USE TO CHANGE THE WORLD.”

- NELSON MANDELA



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PACT PARTNERS AGAINST CHRONIC TRUANCY

A PROGRAM
SPONSORED BY THE
SACRAMENTO COUNTY
DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE

SACRAMENTO COUNTY
DISTRICT ATTORNEY
ANNE MARIE SCHUBERT



Seek Justice, Serve Justice, Do Justice

MESSAGE FROM ANNE MARIE SCHUBERT

The effects of truancy on our children and community are well known. Research shows:

- Students who are truant are more likely to be on welfare and unemployed;
- Students who are truant are less likely to seek higher education;
- High School dropouts who are employed earn significantly lower salaries;
- Truancy is a gateway to crime;
 - * Nearly 80% of our prison population is comprised of dropouts.
 - * Juvenile crime is directly linked to children who are truant.
 - * Students who are truant are more likely to be involved in gang activity.
- Truancy is a more accurate predictor of alcohol and drug use than GPA;
- The economic losses as a result of truancy are staggering.

As District Attorney, I am committed to reducing truancy in our community. Through early intervention, we can help parents understand the truancy laws and the effects of truancy on their children and our society. If this intervention program fails to improve attendance, I am committed to prosecuting parents for violating truancy laws.

Anne Marie Schubert
District Attorney

WHAT ARE THE TRUANCY LAWS?

Compulsory attendance is the law in California from age 6 until the age of 18. (Education Code (E.C.) Section 482600)

A student who has three unexcused absences or three tardies or absences of more than 30 minutes, or any combination thereof, without valid excuse is considered legally truant. A student who has six unexcused absences or six tardies or absences of more than 30 minutes, or any combination thereof, is considered habitually truant and may be referred to the district attorney's office for legal action. (E.C. 48262)

Parents are required to compel the attendance of the student at school. Parents who fail to meet this obligation may be subject to prosecution. (E.C. 48260.5)

WHAT ARE THE CRIMINAL CHARGES THAT MAY BE FILED?

- Violation of E.C. 48293 Failure to Comply with the Compulsory Education Code – an infraction
- Violation of Penal Code Section 272 Contributing to the Delinquency of a Minor – a Misdemeanor

WHAT ARE THE LEGAL CONSEQUENCES?

- Violation of E.C. 48293—A fine of up to \$500, parenting classes
- Violation of Penal Code Section 272- A fine of up to \$2500, up to one year in jail, any other conditions of probation the court deems appropriate
- Vehicle Code Section 13202.7 allows for a one year suspension or delay of the California D.L. for a habitual truant age 13-17

PACT: A PROJECT TO COMBAT TRUANCY

KEY OBJECTIVES

1) Establish Truancy Intervention Program for Elementary & Middle School Age Students

- Establish regularly scheduled intervention meetings for students and parents where a child has had 5 or more unexcused absences
- Involve community partners in the Intervention Program:
 - * Sacramento County Superior Court
 - * District Attorney's Office
 - * Public Defenders' Office and Conflict Criminal Defenders
 - * Local School Districts
 - * Law Enforcement
 - * Probation
- Intervention Program meetings will include:
 - * Discussion of compulsory education laws
 - * Effects of truancy on children and community
 - * Resources available for intervention
 - * Legal consequences for non-compliance

2) Prosecution for Non-Compliance

- First time prosecution by Education Code infraction
- Subsequent prosecution for repeat offenders by PC 272 violations
- Prosecution to occur through Truancy Court