

# Student attendance is required by law.

As a parent, it is your legal duty to ensure that your child attends school as required by Indiana law.

**A parent's failure to ensure his or her child's school attendance may result in prosecution.**

If your child has 10 or more unexcused absences in a school year he or she is considered habitually truant and you may be prosecuted for the crime of Failing to Ensure School Attendance, a Class B Misdemeanor.

- A person convicted of a Class B Misdemeanor may be given up to 180 days in jail and a fine of up to \$1,000.

If your failure to ensure your child's school attendance worsens to such a point that it is clear you are knowingly and intentionally depriving your child of an education as required by law, you may be prosecuted for Neglect of a Dependent, a Level 6 Felony.

- A person convicted of a Level 6 Felony may be given up to 2 ½ years in jail and a fine of up to \$10,000.

## **Why is school attendance important?**

Children who do not attend school regularly are at an increased risk of falling behind in school work and failing classes; dropping out of school; becoming involved in gangs and crime; using alcohol, drugs or tobacco; and failing to obtain a higher education.



*Provided by:*

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