

## The School Health Room

The goal of the school health services team is to return students to class as quickly as possible so that they may continue with their education.

In the health room, students are assessed by the School Nurse or Health Assistant for injury or illness. Most health room visits are handled with basic first aid and comfort measures.

If injuries are severe, or if health room staff feel that the student is too ill to stay in school or should be seen by a doctor, the parent or guardian will be contacted to pick up the student.

Children who have fever (over 101°F), vomiting, diarrhea, undiagnosed rash, or trouble breathing in the last 12 hours should stay home.

Frequent complaints of stomachaches and headaches may be a way to avoid school. The School Nurse, as part of the school team, can assist you in determining how best to handle this behavior.



## Where can parents get help?

If your child starts to demonstrate school avoidance behavior (i.e., refuses to get up, complains of vague illnesses, teacher or peer problems, or skips school) get help right away!

***Call the Office of Pupil Personnel  
at 410-222-5284.***

For more information,  
or to get help for your child,  
contact the  
Office of Pupil Personnel  
at 410-222-5284.



ANNE ARUNDEL  
COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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[www.aacps.org](http://www.aacps.org)

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# School Attendance

*What every parent  
needs to know.*



Office of Pupil Personnel  
Anne Arundel County  
Public Schools

# School Attendance and the Law

## Who must attend school?

**Currently, every child between the ages of 5 and 18** shall attend a public school regularly, during the entire school year, unless otherwise enrolled in private school, approved home instruction, or is receiving home teaching through the school.

## What are my responsibilities as a parent or guardian?

Each person who has, under his/her control, a child between 5 and 18 years of age shall see that the child attends school or receives instruction as required above.

## Are there penalties if my child does not regularly attend?

Yes. A parent or guardian can be guilty of a misdemeanor and subject to fines, imprisonment, or both.

Charges may be filed in the District Court of Maryland in Annapolis or Glen Burnie.

*Truancy is a sign that a young person is losing his or her way and needs help.*



## The Importance of Good Attendance

Children are in school to learn and to grow into responsible and productive young adults who are prepared to enter the world on their own. Regular school attendance is the key to high school graduation and finding a good job.

Poor attendance in elementary school often leads to excessive absences in middle and high school. Poor attenders become disinterested and unmotivated in school and often drop out.

Unlawful absence, or truancy, has been identified as one of the early warning signs of students headed for potential delinquent activity, social problems, or failure in school. According to research, truancy frequently leads to dropping out of school, entering the juvenile court system and unemployment. Dropouts who work typically earn lower salaries.

Truancy is a sign that a young person is losing his or her way and needs help. *Pupil Personnel Workers* and other school staff are available to help.

## Parent & Student Responsibilities

### Parents should...

- Take an active interest in their child's education. Be positive and insist on good attendance.
- Read the Student and Parent Handbooks to know the school's attendance policy.
- Check regularly with school personnel to be aware of the student's attendance.
- Share responsibility and work with the school to ensure regular school attendance.
- Send a written excuse within three days after a student returns to school explaining the absence.
- Send a doctor's note after five consecutive days of absence.
- Ask for help as soon as attendance becomes a problem for their child

### Students need to...

- Attend regularly. Be on time, go to every class, and stay in school all day.
- Be prepared for class, complete assignments, participate in discussions, and be involved.
- Take responsibility for their actions.