



Antrim County Truancy Prevention

We agree that regular school attendance is a cornerstone of student success, creating a critical foundation for academic achievement and personal development. When students are consistently in the classroom, they receive vital direct instruction, participate in discussions, and engage with their peers, allowing them to stay on track with the curriculum and preventing learning gaps from forming. Beyond academics, regular attendance is instrumental in building important life skills such as responsibility, punctuality, and a strong work ethic. It also fosters social and emotional growth by encouraging positive relationships with peers and teachers, which helps students build a sense of community and belonging. Ultimately, the habits and skills cultivated through consistent school attendance prepare students for long-term success in their future careers and adult lives.

Antrim County Schools, including Alba Public School, Bellaire Public Schools, Elk Rapids Schools, Mancelona Public Schools, and North Central Academy, are collaborating with local law enforcement, school resource officers, the Antrim County Prosecuting Attorney, and the probate court to address the negative impact of chronic absenteeism. We are unified in our efforts to support families and the entire community in understanding the critical importance of consistent school attendance, particularly regarding the consequences of students missing more than 10% of school days annually. We agree to utilize the agreed upon procedures (including meetings, truancy prevention contracts, and follow-through with law enforcement and the prosecuting attorney) to reduce truancy throughout our region.