

## What must the school do?

The school entity is required to do several things to help improve a student's attendance.

- Must notify parents/guardians in writing after three unexcused absences.
- Must offer a School Attendance Improvement Conference for each student who has been habitually truant in an attempt to identify the causes of absences.  
Parents/guardians, teachers, caseworkers, school counselors, administrators can be at conferences. *If a parent guardian chooses not to attend, the conference can be held in their absence.*
- Can refer to Children and Youth, or other school or community based program to get involved with habitually truant students and their families
- Schools can't move forward with truancy proceedings at the magistrate until a SAIP conference has been scheduled.

## School Information

**Berwick Area Senior High School**  
1100 Fowler Avenue Berwick PA 18603  
(570)759-6400 ext. 3100

**Berwick Area Middle School**  
1100 Evergreen Drive  
Berwick PA 18603  
(570)759-6400 ext. 3200

**Salem Elementary**  
810 East 10<sup>th</sup> Street Berwick PA 18603  
(570)759-6419

**Nescopeck Elementary**  
315 Dewey Street Nescopeck PA 18635  
(570)759-6426

**West Berwick Elementary**  
809 Sycamore Street Berwick PA 18603  
(570)759-6422



## PENNSYLVANIA COMPULSORY ATTENDANCE/TRUANCY

Amended:  
Act 138 of 2006, Act 39 of 2018, Act 16 of 2019

[education.pa.gov](http://education.pa.gov)

## Purpose

- To improve school attendance and deter truancy through a comprehensive approach to consistently identify and address issues as early as possible through credible interventions that preserve the unity of the family, avoid entry of a child to foster care, and confine a parent or guardian *only as a last resort*.
- Define between a truant student and a habitually truant student.

### Who is a truant student?

Three or more school days of unexcused absence during the current school year by a student who is subject to the compulsory school attendance law

### Who is a habitually truant student?

Six or more school days of unexcused absence by a student who is subject to compulsory school attendance law.

### What is compulsory school age?

The period of a child's life from the time the child's parents elect to have the child enter school (no later than 6 years old) until the child reaches 18 years of age.



### What happens when a student is habitually truant?

#### Under 15 years old

- School must (1) refer student to a school or community based attendance program, or (2) the county Children and Youth Agency
- The school may file a citation against the parent of a habitually truant student in magistrate court

#### Over 15 years old

- School must either (1) refer student to a school or community based attendance improvement program or (2) file a citation against the student OR the parent
- May refer to Children and Youth Agency for further action.