

## WHAT IS TRUANCY?

❖ **Any unexcused absence from school is considered truancy**, but states enact their own school attendance laws.

*State law determines:*

1. The age at which a child is required to begin attending school
2. The age at which a child may legally drop out of school
3. The number of unexcused absences at which a student is considered legally truant

❖ **Truancy is a status offense.**

This means that truancy is a crime due to the young age of the actor, but would not be illegal for someone older. The other most common status offenses are *running away from home, alcohol use, and curfew violations.*

# The Process

(Students over 12 yrs old)

- ❖ The **Board of Education** determines that the Truancy Reduction Pilot Program would be an appropriate intervention and files a petition with the Circuit Court.
- ❖ The student, parent/guardian, and the Board of Education are summoned to appear before the Court.
- ❖ The Judge or Master reviews the records and information offered by the Board of Education, student, and parent/guardian in making their decision
  - *A student and parent/guardian are entitled to obtain private counsel at any stage of the process*
- ❖ If the student is **adjudicated** truant, they are ordered to attend school. A student and the family are often ordered to attend a full family assessment to be completed by New Transitions. This assessment is designed to help identify underlying causes of truant behavior and make recommendations.
  - *Hearings are held regularly to provide guidance and supervision. As the student progress through the program, hearings are held less frequently.*
  - *Improvement in attendance and other achievements are recognized and reinforced.*
- ❖ Upon demonstrating consistent, sustained improvement in attendance and compliance with services, the student will be recognized as having successfully completed the Truancy Reduction Pilot Program.
  - *Cases generally remains open 6-9 months, but are individualized to the student and family.*

Notes:

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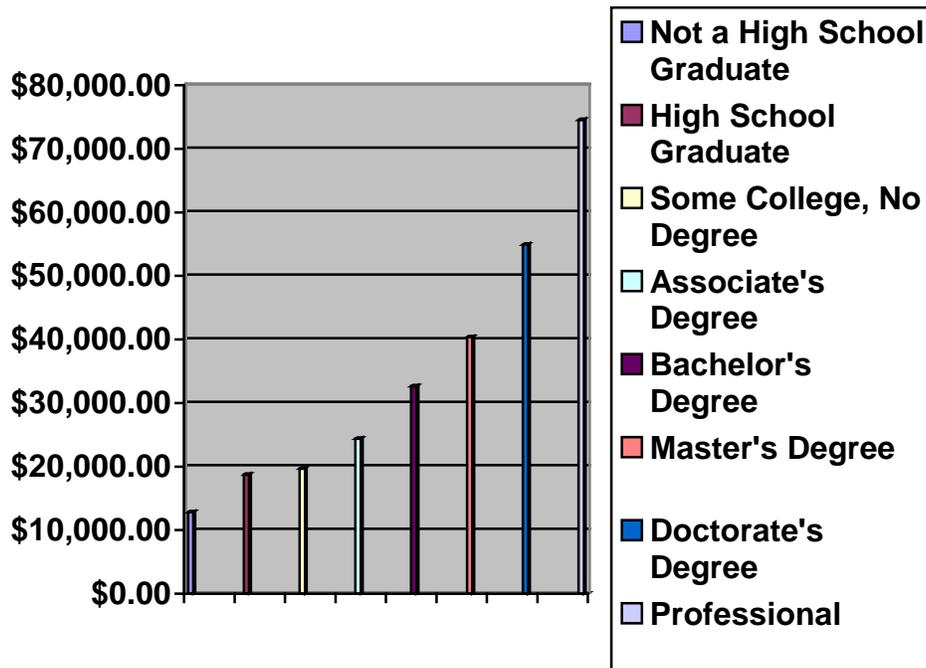
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## Importance of School

- ❖ As illustrated below, attending and completing school can have a big impact on your future earnings.



- ❖ Attending school regularly allows students to gain knowledge and skills to achieve goals.
- ❖ School exposes you to new experiences and helps you develop interests, hobbies, and skills.
- ❖ Attending school regularly means more than just being in the building. It allows you to take advantage of all opportunities available to you.
- ❖ Attending school regularly and getting good grades allow you to participate in sports and other activities inside and after school.

*\*Truant students are at risk for:*

- ❖ Educational failure (suspension, expulsion, or dropout)
- ❖ Social isolation
- ❖ Substance abuse
- ❖ Low self-esteem
- ❖ Unwanted pregnancy
- ❖ Unemployment
- ❖ Violence
- ❖ Adult crime or prison

*\* According to NACE website*



# ACTIVITIES

**List 10 of your strengths.**

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.
- 7.
- 8.
- 9.
- 10.

**List 10 of your challenges.**

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.
- 7.
- 8.
- 9.
- 10.

**List of Interests or things you might like to try.**

# **ACTIVITIES**

## **DEFINE LEVELS OF EDUCATION**

1. GED.
2. HIGH SCHOOL DIPOLMA.
3. ASSOCIATE'S DEGREE.
4. BACHELOR'S DEGREE.
5. MASTER'S DEGREE.
6. DOCTORIAL DEGREE. (PH.D)

## WEBSITES AND REFERENCES

U.S. Department of Labor

[Bls.gov/oco/home.htm](http://Bls.gov/oco/home.htm)

- Occupational Outlook Handbook

[www.bewhatiwanttobe.com](http://www.bewhatiwanttobe.com)

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

[www.careervoyages.com](http://www.careervoyages.com)

[www.jumpstart.org/madmoney/pgv\\_money\\_rc\\_main.html](http://www.jumpstart.org/madmoney/pgv_money_rc_main.html)

- Reality Check Activity

[www.webpages.vidaho.edu/~pathways/survey.htm](http://www.webpages.vidaho.edu/~pathways/survey.htm)