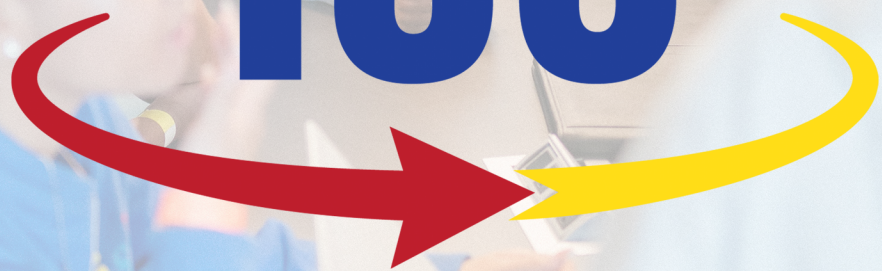


REACH 180



| TURNAROUND ACTION PLAN



OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

Marie N. Feagins, Ed.D.

Memphis-Shelby County Schools
160 S. Hollywood St., Memphis, TN 38112

scsk12.org

Dear Families,

At Memphis-Shelby County Schools, we recognize that regular attendance is important to your child's academic success. That's why we've introduced REACH 180, a collaborative effort to provide every student with the support they need to attend school consistently.

REACH 180 is designed to help families overcome common barriers to attendance, such as transportation challenges, housing instability, food insecurity, job insecurities, or other personal struggles. Through this initiative, we offer resources, guidance, and community partnerships that ensure your child can thrive in a supportive learning environment.

This plan brings together students, families, school leaders, and community partners to work collaboratively, offering practical solutions tailored to meet your needs. Whether it is connecting with transportation services, providing access to nutritious meals, or offering mental health support, REACH 180 is here to help.

We are committed to supporting your family, and we look forward to working together to ensure your child's success in school.

In Partnership,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "M. Feagins".

Marie Feagins, Ed.D.

Superintendent

Memphis-Shelby County Schools



OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY GENERAL

30th JUDICIAL DISTRICT ~ SHELBY COUNTY, TENNESSEE
201 Poplar Avenue, Eleventh Floor, Memphis, TN 38103-1947
Tel. 901-222-1300 ~ Fax 901-222-7971
www.scdag.com

STEVE MULROY
District Attorney General

October 4, 2024

Dear Parent/Guardian:

I'm writing to tell you about the most valuable government program you're ever likely to benefit from, a **Free Public Education**.

For 13 straight years, our kids get 180 days of education and training, absolutely free. A good and complete education is the best predictor of success and happiness for our children. When a child misses too much school, they get behind in their work, risk having to repeat a year, or not graduating. That's likely to spell trouble for them down the road with a higher risk of unemployment, unhappiness, even contact with the justice system.

School attendance is not just a good idea—it's the law. It's against the law for a child to miss 5 unexcused days of school (*total, not consecutive*). "Educational neglect" by a parent is a Class C misdemeanor, punishable by up to 10 days in jail. When school officials can't resolve an absentee issue on their own, they're required to notify the courts.

We don't want to prosecute parents over truancy issues. Instead, we want your child to go to school and succeed. Please help us do that by *making sure your child is attending school*. Check in with them. Ask them how school is going. Help with their homework. Talk to their teachers. Talk to the school, they're eager to help.

Together, let's increase school attendance, make our children more successful, and make our neighborhoods safer.

Sincerely,

STEVE MULROY
District Attorney General



Toolkit Includes:

- District Attendance/Truancy Policy
- Tennessee Compulsory Law
- List of Community Partners and Resource(s)
- Key Contacts for School/District



Reach 180 External Resources

NAME	WEBSITE	SERVICE	TELEPHONE
Community Services Agency	www.shelbycountycsa.org	Utility Assistance, Rent/Mortgage Assistance, Prescription Assistance	901-222-4212
Driving the Dream (United Way)	https://dtd.uwmidsouth.org/	<i>Driving The Dream</i> is a functional coordinated network of effective community-based services and supports to help families advance from where they are to where they dream to be.	901-433-4300 844-444-4211
Neighborhood Christian Center	https://www.ncclife.org/	Provide emergency food, clothing, and housing items to families in crisis throughout Memphis. Someone seeking assistance should visit their website and fill out an application	901-881-6013
Salvation Army	https://salvationarmymemphis.org/	Because of Memphis' long-term and interrelated problems of poverty, homelessness, addiction and violence, The Salvation Army has committed its resources to Heal Memphis with long-term solutions. Calling is available, but they prefer for people contact through website with the ability to contact the appropriate person based on need.	901-543-8586
Memphis Crisis Center	https://memphiscrisiscenter.org/	Crisis intervention and emotional support	901-274-7477

		services via crisis line 24/7/365.	
Family Safety Center	https://familysafetycenter.org/	Assistance with Orders of Protection in critical safety cases (screening via telephone). Their staff can help you via telephone or online. Safety Screening via telephone. Domestic Violence Emergency Shelter 24/7/365.	901-222-4400 24-Hour Crisis Line 901-249-7611
Memphis, Light, Gas & Water	http://www.mlgw.com/	The Memphis Light, Gas and Water Division is a municipal public utility serving Memphis and Shelby County, Tennessee.	901-544-6549
MIFA Emergency Services & Emergency Housing	https://www.mifa.org/applyonline	Emergency utility, rent, mortgage, and housing assistance applications accepted online only. Shelter application available 7:30 a.m. to 2 p.m.	901-527-0208
Comcast	https://internetessentials.com/low-cost-computer	Providing 2 months of Free Internet Essentials Services for new Internet Essentials subscribers.	
Mid-South Food Bank	https://www.midsouthfoodbank.org/	Food for children, families, seniors, and Diaper Bank. Serving 14-Day food boxes with nonperishable food for low-income and vulnerable populations. Food boxes available through partner food pantries, food will be placed in your car by volunteers 11am – 1pm.	901-527-0841
Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC)	https://www.tn.gov/health/health-program-areas/fhw/wic.html	Food benefits for women, infants, and children	1-800-342-5942

Child Care Payment Assistance	https://www.tn.gov/humanservices/families/child-care-services/child-care-payment-assistance.html	Eligible parents or guardians can receive payments for childcare. Visit the website to complete the application or apply online.	901-543-3651
ParentPlus	https://www.parentplus901.org/	Family services through home visits for expecting mothers and families with young children age 5 and younger.	901-577-2500
Memphis Area Transit Authority	http://www.matatransit.com/	MATA offers reduced fare rates for students enrolled in Shelby County Schools, senior citizens 65 years and older, and people with disabilities on fixed route bus .	901-274-MATA (6282)
MEMPHIS CRISIS CENTER	https://memphiscrisiscenter.org/	24/7 volunteer-powered crisis line providing telephone-based crisis intervention, empathic listening, emotional support services and linkage to community resources. Along with the main crisis line, the MCC administers the Elder Lifeline, the HIV Care Line, the Call4Kids Hotline and serves as the local affiliate of the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline and the National Veterans Hotline. All services are free, safe, and confidential.	901-274-7477
National Suicide Prevention LIFELINE	N/A	Emergency suicide prevention hotline	1-800-273-TALK (1-800-273-8255)

Children's Mental Health	TNvoices.org	Tennessee source of mental health referral, support, and advocacy for families.	800-670-988
CASE MANAGEMENT INC	http://www.cmiofmemphis.org/	Full array of outpatient, addiction, and primary care services to the mentally ill in the Memphis and Shelby County area.	901-821-5600
SHELBY COUNTY CRIME VICTIMS & RAPE CRISIS CENTER	www.shelbycountyttn.gov/cvrcc	For victims of all crime: trauma counseling, victim compensation, orders of protection, support groups, please call or use the online form . 24/7 Sexual Assault Forensic Exams will still be provided in partnership with law enforcement. For the Sexual Assault Hotline: 901-222-4350	901-222-3950
DeNeuville Learning Center - GED/ESL/Adult Education for Women	www.dlcmemphis.org	Provides educational and support services to women: Microsoft Office (Word, Access, Excel, PowerPoint), typing, and Internet; GED preparation; citizenship test preparation; business skills and job readiness; and sewing classes.	(901) 726-5902
Goodwill Excel Center - Memphis - Adult High School Diploma Program	http://excelcentermemphis.org	Provides tuition-free adult contract school program for Shelby County adults who want to earn their high school diploma.	(901) 726-3100

Hope Works - Adult Basic Education/HiSet	www.whyhopeworks.org	Provides HiSet classes at several locations, including sites in Whitehaven, Midtown, Raleigh, Hickory Hill, and Summer Avenue.	(901) 396-8800
Asha's Refuge - Language and Job Skills Classes for Refugees and Approved Asylees	www.ashasrefuge.org	Provides a faith-based non-profit that offers free American life , language and job skills classes, and information about available resources to help refugees and asylees adjust to life in the US.	(901) 500-9200
Leadership Empowerment Center - Frayser	N/A	Provides faith-based programming such as youth leadership, media, sports teams, mentoring, tutoring and life skills classes through the BE3 (Be Empowered - Be Equipped - Be Educated) program for youth in the Frayser area.	(901) 358-7788
Refugee Empowerment Program	www.repmemphis.org	Provides ethnic community-based programs and services to address unique concerns of refugees and immigrants in the Memphis area.	(901) 500-3844

CLOUD901 Teen Learning Lab - Benjamin L. Hooks Central Library	www.memphislibrary.org/cloud901	Provides a special space exclusively for teen ages 13-18; includes video and audio production labs, traditional and digital art studios, editing and mixing stations, formal and informal learning areas, digital and analog displays, a performance area, a Maker Space, and spaces for brainstorming, homework, and collaboration zones.	(901) 415-2760
Heal the Hood Foundation of Memphis	www.hthmemphis.org	Provides positive outlets for youth and young adults of all ages through singing, dancing, art, entertainment, acting, motivational speaking, screen writing, an annual basketball camp for children ages 8-15 and mentoring;	(901) 566-0743
Knowledge Quest - After School Program/Culinary Academy/Community Garden	www.knowledgequest.org/	Provides after school program for ages pre-K through 8th grade in the Knowledge Quest School Age Academy Monday - Friday 2:15 pm - 6:00 pm, targeting the 38106 and 38126 zip codes.	(901) 942-1512
Red Zone Ministries	www.redzonememphis.org	Provides outreach club, Bible Study, academic and educational programs for inner-city youth in Orange Mound neighborhood of Memphis.	(901) 350-0661

Shelby County Office of Re-Entry	https://www.scofficeofreentry.com/	The Shelby County Office of Re-Entry is a collaborative program to help persons with criminal backgrounds access reentry services.	(901) 222-4550
Dress for Success Memphis	dfsmemphisvirtualcc.org	Provides interview and work appropriate attire, confidence boost programing, and career development services.	(901) 363-3100
Agape Child and Family Services - Memphis - TeamWorks - Job Readiness Program	www.agapemeanslove.org/workforce-readiness/	Provides a collaborative workforce program with over 24 community partners through which Agape connects adults in Frayser, Hickory Hill and Whitehaven with job readiness training and education and employment placement.	(901) 323-3600
JobLINC Mobile Career Center - Memphis Public Libraries	www.memphislibrary.org/JobLinc	Mobile technology career center with information on job and career options through specialized library collections and assistance in using those materials.	(901) 415-2787

Handbook for Improving Chronic Absenteeism and Truancy

Introduction

Chronic absenteeism and truancy are significant barriers to student success. The purpose of this handbook is to provide guidance and resources to support families and students who are struggling with consistent school attendance. By addressing known and unknown barriers, we aim to build a collaborative approach that includes students, families, school leaders, and community partners.

Understanding Chronic Absenteeism and Truancy

- **Chronic Absenteeism:** Missing 10% or more of school days for any reason (excused or unexcused) in one school year.
- **Truancy:** Missing school without a valid excuse, leading to a violation of state attendance laws.
 - In the state of Tennessee, a student is truant if he or she accrues five (5) unexcused absences

Compulsory Attendance Law in Tennessee

Students between the ages of 6 and 17 are required by law to attend school. Parents are responsible for ensuring their child's attendance, and failure to do so can result in legal consequences, including court involvement.

Common Barriers to Attendance and Solutions

1. Transportation

- **Barrier:** Lack of reliable transportation to get to and from school.

Suggestions:

Personnel: School counselor, transportation coordinator, family engagement specialist or advisor.

- Provide school bus passes or coordinate with local transportation services for free or reduced fares.
- Create a carpool network with other parents in the community.
- Partner with local rideshare services or organizations that provide transportation to families in need.

2. Houselessness

- **Barrier:** Families facing housing instability may struggle to maintain a stable routine, impacting school attendance.

Suggestions:

Personnel: Special Populations advisor, school social worker, family and community engagement specialist or advisor.

- Partner with local shelters or community housing programs to provide temporary housing solutions for families.
- Establish a point of contact at the school to assist with securing necessary school supplies, clothing, and hygiene products.

- Coordinate with McKinney-Vento Act liaisons to ensure students have access to transportation and services.

3. Job Insecurity

- **Barrier:** Parents working multiple jobs or irregular shifts may find it challenging to ensure their child's attendance.

Suggestions:

Personnel: School counselor, community job placement officer, parent engagement coordinator.

- Provide before- and after-school care options so parents can manage their work schedules while ensuring their children are in school.
- Offer flexible meeting times with school staff to accommodate parents' work schedules.
- Engage community job programs that support parents in finding more stable employment.

4. Food Insecurity

- **Barrier:** Families lacking consistent access to nutritious food may struggle with sending children to school regularly.

Suggestions:

Personnel: School nutritionist, community outreach worker, local food bank representative.

- Enroll students in free or reduced-cost school meal programs (breakfast, lunch, and weekend meals).
- Collaborate with local food banks or backpack programs that provide meals for families to take home.
- Offer nutrition workshops for families, promoting available community resources.

5. Bullying

- **Barrier:** Fear of bullying can cause students to avoid school.

Suggestions:

Personnel: School counselor, anti-bullying coordinator, student support team, school administrator.

- Implement and enforce strong anti-bullying policies at the school.
- Provide counseling and peer support groups for students affected by bullying.
- Use restorative justice approaches to help resolve conflicts and create a safe school environment.

6. Other Barriers (Mental Health, Family Issues, etc.)

- **Barrier:** Students may face other challenges such as mental health issues, family conflicts, or caregiving responsibilities.

Suggestions:

Personnel: School psychologist, community mental health workers, family engagement specialist.

- Provide on-site counseling and mental health services to support students.
- Partner with community mental health providers to offer resources outside of school hours.
- Arrange for family therapy or support programs to address broader issues at home.

Meeting Date: _____

School Name: _____

Student Name: _____

Grade: _____

Parent/Guardian Name: _____

1. Identified Barrier(s) to Attendance

- **Barrier 1:** _____
- **Barrier 2:** _____

2. Agreed-Upon Solutions (Choose 3 suggestions from relevant section)

- **Solution 1:** _____
Action: _____
Assigned Personnel: _____
Timeline for Completion: _____
- **Solution 2:** _____
Action: _____
Assigned Personnel: _____
Timeline for Completion: _____
- **Solution 3:** _____
Action: _____
Assigned Personnel: _____
Timeline for Completion: _____

3. Follow-Up Plan

- Next Check-In Date: _____
- Accountability Team: (List names and roles of personnel responsible for monitoring progress)

NAME	ROLE

4. Caregiver Commitment

I commit to supporting my child's attendance at school and will follow through on the agreed-upon solutions. I understand the legal consequences of continued absenteeism and truancy under Tennessee law.

Parent/Caregiver Signature: _____

Date: _____

District Resources

Homelessness	901-416-8337
Mental Health Office	901-416-8484
Migrant Families	901 416-8069
Transportation	901-416-6077
Crisis Hotline	901-416-8484
Gang Awareness (Student Safety)	901-416-6295
Coordinated School Health	901-416-6091
Counseling Services Elementary	901-416-6348
Counseling Services Middle	901-416-4376
Counseling Services (Secondary)	901-416-8329
Exceptional Children and Health Services	901-416-5600
Fostercare	901-416-7393
Gang Awareness (Student Safety)	901-416-6295
Homelessness	901-416-8337
Mental Health Office	901-416-8484
Migrant Families	901-416-8069
MSCEA	901-454-0966
UEA	901-467-8800
MSCS Matters (PWC)	901-416-5300
Multilingual Learners	901-416-5411
Nursing Services	901-416-6091
Student Health Clinic (operated by Christ Community)	901-842-2379
Volunteers	901 416-0118



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