

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS:

TRUANCY IN BERRIEN COUNTY

For the purpose of these guidelines, school truancy in Berrien County is defined as follows: *Any unexcused absence, pattern of unexcused absences that are established by a student during the school year, or a continuation of an attendance problem from past years.*

[P.A. 451 of 1977 \(amended P.A. 43 of 1977\) MCL 380.1561—380.1599](#)

[MICHIGAN COMPULSORY EDUCATION LAW](#)

Referral Criteria



The Truancy Office at Berrien RESA will accept a referral from a local district that has met the following criteria:

- School has written communication to the parent/guardian regarding the student's excessive, unexcused absences.
- Student has 10 or more unexcused absences.
- School/parent meeting has been held or attempted.
- Student is between the ages of 6-17.

HAS COVID-19 CHANGE THE TRUANCY PROCESS?

Our process at Berrien RESA will remain the same during the 2021-2022 school year. The only difference will be cases where the student attends classes virtually. Unexcused absences from a virtual program will not count towards truancy. Per the guidance from the Berrien County Prosecutor's office only unexcused absences for in-person learning will count towards truancy.

How To Make A Referral

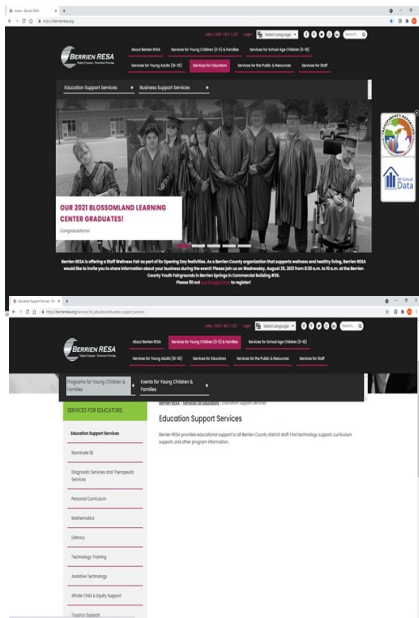
Referral forms are available on our website. Go to www.berrienresa.org, and click on Services for Educators—Education Support Services click “Truancy Support”. Include a copy of the students most recent attendance report and any medical documentation to excuse absences (if applicable). Forms can be returned via email or faxed to:

Berrien RESA

Attn: Michelle Anderson

Fax : (269) 471-2941

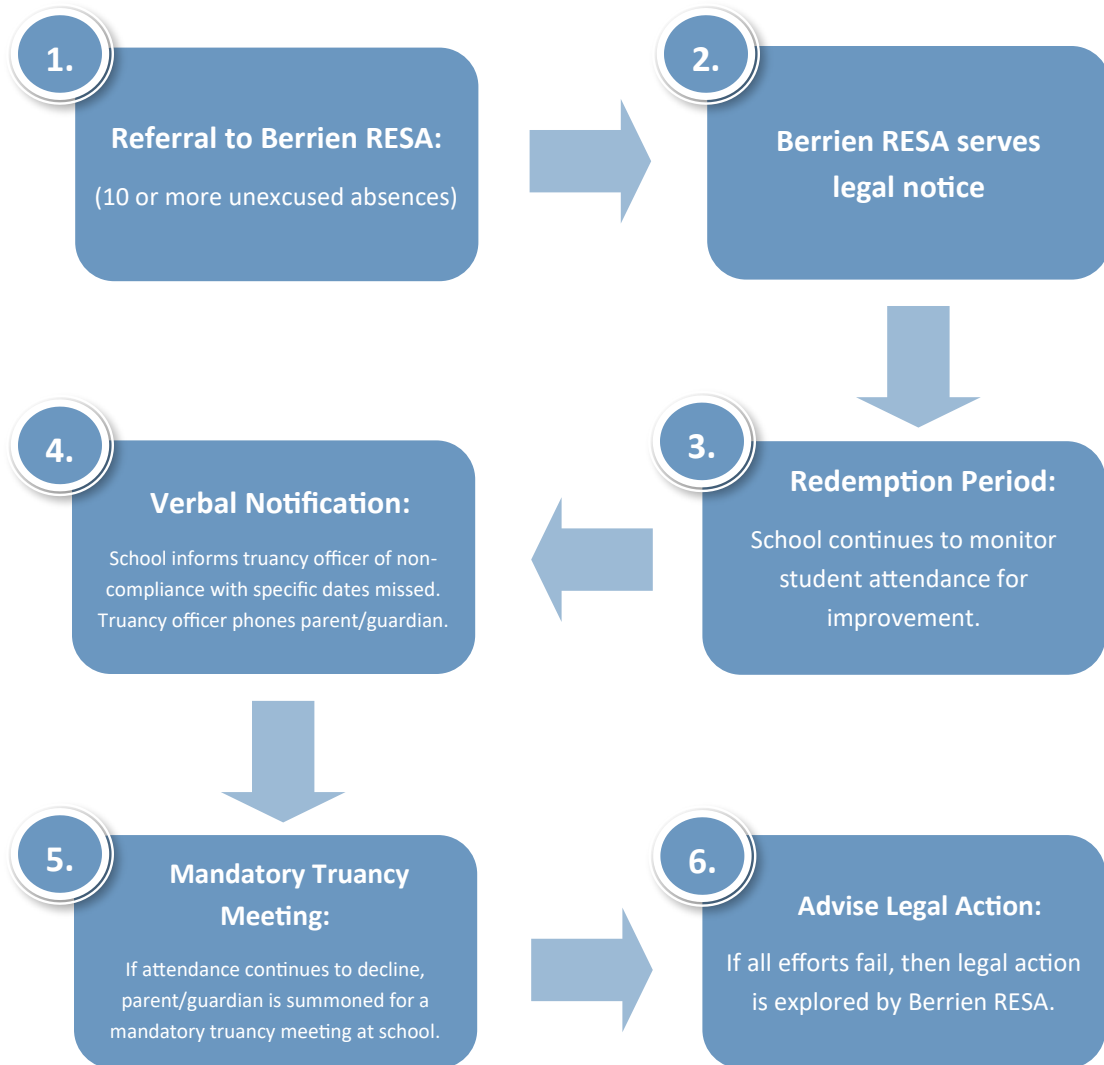
Email: michelle.anderson@berrienresa.org



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Truancy Referrals: What happens next?



Need more help? Contact us.



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