Skipping school can take a devastating toll on a child’s education. Often, it is the first sign that a child may drop out of school later. Early intervention can help strengthen your child’s commitment to school and save your child from further consequences associated with truancy.

**STRATEGIES THAT FAMILIES USE TO KEEP CHILDREN IN SCHOOL**

- Stay involved with your child’s school.
- Encourage your child to participate in one or more school activities.
- Set limits.
- Monitor your child’s actions, whereabouts and feelings.
- Draw the line regarding peers.
- Send continuous positive messages to your child.
- Maintain that the parent is in charge.

**WHAT PARENTS CAN DO**

- **Stay in contact with your child’s teachers to monitor progress and attendance.** Parent/teacher conferences are important, but if you sense there is a problem, don’t wait; call the school. Teachers should know that you want them to call if they notice attendance problems.

- **Pay attention to how your child feels about school.** If you are hearing a lot of talk about being bored, being picked on or “hating” school, it may be time for a special meeting with the teacher. Together, you may be able to find ways to help your child feel more connected and excited about learning.

- **Talk about the future with your child.** Children may have a hard time understanding how what they are learning now will help them achieve their goals.

- **Demonstrate that school is important in your family.** Discuss and follow through on consequences for skipping school.

*For more online tip cards, visit kcsl.org under the “Resources” tab.*

Parenting questions? Call the Parent Helpline.  
1-800-CHILDREN or email/text 1800children@kcsl.org