



# As truancy cases rise, judge takes action to send kids to class, not court

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A sudden surge in truancy cases has a Douglas County Juvenile Court judge scrambling for a way to help — and compel — hundreds of students to get back in school, without throwing the book at them.

Members of more than 30 families are scheduled to appear en masse today before Judge Elizabeth Crnkovich to be arraigned on charges related to chronic school absences.

About 10 of those to appear are parents charged with neglecting to make sure their kindergartners through sixth-graders attend school. The rest are students in seventh grade or above who are charged with truancy.

Crnkovich has scheduled two similar arraignments for March with members of at least as many families.

The truants are among 640 students that school districts in Douglas County have referred to the justice system this school year after they missed more than 20 days of school.

Only 239 such cases were referred to

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