

There are two circumstances for which WPS employees file an application for Child in Need of Services (CHINS) with the Worcester Juvenile Court. One circumstance is for children who are habitually truant<sup>1</sup> and the other is for students who habitually break school regulations<sup>2</sup>.

In all cases the CHINS petition is filed as a non-criminal matter. It is an appeal to the court for assistance.

Parents may also file a CHINS petition, for example, in instances when a child runs away from home. A child can be arrested if apprehended as a runaway or if they fail to appear at the preliminary inquiry scheduled to review the CHINS application.

	2010-2011 School Year
CHINS - Truancy	61
CHINS - School Regulations	39
CHINS - Total	100

---

<sup>1</sup> Habitual School Truant: When not otherwise excused from attendance in accordance with lawful and reasonable school regulations, willfully fails to attend school for more than 8 school days in a quarter.

<sup>2</sup> Habitual School Offender: Repeatedly fails to obey lawful and reasonable school regulations.