

House Bill 410

The Ohio Revised Code provides for public school boards of education to establish policies to encourage regular attendance of students. The Defiance City Board of Education recognizes that regular attendance plays a very important part in the success or failure of our students.

With the increased emphasis on state-mandated testing, it is even more important than ever to stress the importance of good attendance. Every student has a right to an education, but every student also has an obligation to attend regularly and to abide by the rules and regulations of the school system and the State of Ohio.

House Bill 410 encourages and supports a preventative approach to excessive absences and truancy. A district or school absence intervention team, a team of educators, district representatives and other supportive adults, will develop a specialized absence intervention plan for students who are habitually truant. Absence intervention plans incorporate academic and non-academic supports to help the student and remove barriers to regular attendance. The legislation highlights the importance of parental engagement and accountability as part of a student's absence intervention plan.

Highlights of HB 410

Definition of 'habitual truant' changed from days to hours.

The new definition for habitual truant: a. Absent 30 or more consecutive hours without a legitimate excuse; b. Absent 42 or more hours in one month without a legitimate excuse; or c. Absent 72 or more hours in one year without a legitimate excuse.

Excessive absences: a. Absent 38 or more hours in one school month with or without a legitimate excuse; or b. Absent 65 or more hours in one school year with or without a legitimate excuse.

Once a student has met the criteria for "Excessive Absences" (Hour of absences - 38 or more in a month and/or 65 or more hours in a school year), a letter will be sent home to the parents informing them of their student's excessive absences, according to HB 410.

According to HB 410, if a student is a. Absent 30 or more consecutive hours without a legitimate excuse; b. Absent 42 or more hours in one month without a legitimate excuse; or c. Absent 72 or more hours in one year without a legitimate excuse, a letter will be sent home informing the parent(s) of a Absence Intervention Team meeting to assess the student's absences and to create an Absence Intervention Plan, to hold the student and their parents accountable for attending school regularly.

Permitting students to attend class at their leisure, to miss school whenever they wish, to be tardy excessively, to be inattentive in class, or to create disturbances simply teaches laziness and irresponsibility. For these reasons, minimum attendance standards must be met. The school must work in partnership with the parents toward this goal. **Therefore, all absences will be documented.**