

It is important for your child to attend school every day. When your student misses a significant amount of school, even if the absences are excused, the child misses critical instruction time and learning opportunities. This often has long-term, negative effects on a child, such as lower achievement and a greater chance of not graduating on time. A new state law defines excessive absence and truancy:

State Attendance Requirements under House Bill 410

“Habitual Truant” changed from DAYS to HOURS:

- Absent 30 or more consecutive hours without legitimate excuse
- Absent 42 or more hours in one month without legitimate excuse
- Absent 72 or more hours in one year without legitimate excuse

Includes “Excessive Absences”:

- Absent 38 or more hours in one school month with or without legitimate excuse
- Absent 65 or more hours in one school year with or without legitimate excuse

Tardies will accumulate into hours and are included as attendance requirements under House Bill 410.

When students miss school because they are chronically or terminally ill and the district excuses their absences, the missed school hours do not count toward truancy.

Districts cannot file a complaint with the juvenile court against a student or the student’s family for excessive absences.

Truancy includes only unexcused absences.

When a student is identified as habitually truant, they will be assigned to an absence intervention team and an absence intervention plan will be created. If the student does not make progress on the plan within 61 days or continues to be excessively absent, the district will file a complaint in the juvenile court.

The “Absence Intervention Team” is composed of:

- Representative of child’s school
- Another representative from the school who knows the student (Counselor/Teacher)
- Student’s Parent, Custodian, or Guardian

The purpose of the “Absence Intervention Team” is to:

- To develop a plan to improve the student’s attendance
- Failure to attend AIT meeting will result by law in a referral to Ashtabula County Children’s Services Bureau