

House Bill 410 Fact Sheet

Passed by the Ohio General Assembly in December 2016 House Bill 410 encourages and supports a preventative approach to excessive absences and truancy. Missing too much school has long-term, negative effects on students including lower achievement and graduation rates. Beginning in the 2017-2018 school year several changes take effect:

*Students **can not** be suspended or expelled for missing too much school.

Regular attendance is an important ingredient in students' academic success. Excessive absences interfere with students' progress in mastering knowledge and skills necessary to graduate from high school and prepared for higher education and the workforce. The District will partner with students and their families to identify and reduce barriers to regular school attendance. The district will use a continuum of strategies to reduce student absence including but not limited to:

- Notification of student absences to the parent and guardian
- Development and implementation of an absence intervention plan, which may include supportive services for students and families
- Counseling
- Parent education and parenting programs
- Mediation
- Intervention programs available through juvenile authorities and
- Referrals for truancy, if applicable

DEFINITION OF TRUANCY AND EXCESSIVE ABSENCES

1. "Chronic truant" is removed from the law
2. Definition of "habitual truant" changed from days to hours:

HB 410 [ORC 2151.011(18)]	Prior law
30 or more consecutive school hours	5 or more consecutive school days
42 or more hours in one school month	7 school days in one month
72 or more hours in a school year	12 or more school days in a school year

3. Included "excessive absences":

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

STUDENT DISCIPLINE CHANGES

1. Schools may permit students to make up missed work due to out-of-school suspensions per district policy
2. Schools cannot apply any remaining part or all of a suspension to the following school year, but the superintendent may require a student to participate in community service or an alternative consequence for the number of hours equal to the time left on the suspension.

District Responsibilities

When a student is excessively absent from school, the following will occur:

1. The district will notify the student's parents in writing within seven days of the triggering absence;
2. The student will follow the district's plan for absence intervention; and
3. The student and family may be referred to community resources.

When a student is habitually truant, the following will occur:

1. Within seven days of the triggering absence, the district will do the following:
 - a. Select members of the absence intervention team;
 - b. Make three meaningful attempts to secure the participation of the student's parent or guardian on the absence intervention team.
2. Within 10 days of the triggering absence, the student will be assigned to the selected absence intervention team;
3. Within 14 days after the assignment of the team, the district will develop the student's absence intervention plan;
4. 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 juvenile court.