

Dear Parents/Guardians,

The State of Ohio has passed a new truancy law, Ohio HB 410. All Ohio schools are mandated to enforce Ohio HB410 starting in the 2017/2018 school year. This letter is to inform you of the mandates that we are required to enforce. Good attendance to school is a vital part of your child's educational success. The Toledo Public School Board of Education endeavors to reduce truancy through cooperation with parents, diligence in investigating the causes of absence and use of strict guidelines in regard to tardiness and unexcused absence. Ohio HB 410 requires us to take the following steps in an effort to reduce truancy:

- Attendance tracking has changed from **days** of school to **hours** of school.
- Ohio law now considers students who miss **38 hours** (6 days) excused or unexcused of school in one month or **65 hours** (10 days) excused or unexcused in a school year, excessively truant. School districts are now required to notify you when your child reaches that threshold. Any future absences will require evidence that explains why the absence from school was necessary (e.g. court documentation, doctor's notes). Final authorization of an absence will be determined only after the required additional information is presented.
- If a student is absent **30 hours unexcused in a row** ( 5 days), **42 hours unexcused in a month** (7 days) or **72 hours unexcused** (12 days) in a school year they will be considered habitually truant from school.
- Once a student has met the threshold of habitual truant the school will form an Absence Intervention Team. The team must consist of two school representatives (one of which must be familiar with the child), the child's parent/custodian and the child. Team members may include a member of a public/private agency who is providing assistance to lower absences. The student and parent are required by law to be active participants on an Absence Intervention Team and follow any subsequent plan to improve school attendance. Failure to participate and comply will result in the truancy filing on the student and possible filing against the parent/guardian through juvenile court. Additionally, if the parent/guardian fails to participate, it may result in a mandatory referral to Lucas County Children Services Board.

Please be sure to report your child(ren)'s absences to the school by contacting them directly **and** by sending in a written note the following day. If you have any questions regarding these changes, please contact Toledo Public Schools' Director of Truancy Prevention at 419.671.0819.

Thank you,

Toledo Public Schools