

Truancy

Habitual Truancy

Ohio State law (HB 410) mandates that it is the parent's responsibility to be sure their child receives an education. Habitual Truancy is defined as "habitual or chronic absence from school or class without legitimate excuse and failure to follow proper attendance check-in/check-out and absence procedures." The full ORC are available upon request at the main office.

The Intergenerational School Day is 6.5 instructional hours long.-Excessive absences results when a student is absent with a non-medical excuse or without legitimate excuse from the school for thirty-eight (38) or more hours in one school month, or sixty-five (65) or more hours in a school year.

Within 7 days of a student becoming excessively absent from school, the attendance officer shall notify the student's parents of the student's absences in writing.

A student is considered habitually truant if the student is absent without a legitimate excuse for 30 or more consecutive hours, for 42 or more hours in 1 school month, or 72 or more hours in 1 school year.

A student is considered chronically absent when he or she misses 10% of the school year or 92 hours of school for excused or unexcused reasons within 1 school year.

In the case of too many unexcused absences, the Intergenerational Schools may take the following steps:

1. Within 7 days of the triggering absence: Letter sent home.
2. Meeting with parent/guardian to discuss possible interventions.
3. Referral to Cuyahoga County Children and Family Services and/or Cleveland Police Department.

In the case of Habitual Truancy:

1. Within 7 days of a triggering absence:
 - a. The School will select members of the intervention team
 - b. Make three meaningful attempts to secure parent participation
2. Within 10 days of a triggering absence, student is assigned to a team
3. Within 14 days after assignment, team will develop an intervention plan
4. If no progress occurs within 61 days, proceed with Juvenile Court reporting
 - a. If the child misses 30 consecutive hours or 42 hours in a month during the implementation of absence intervention.

The school shall employ absence intervention strategies and an Attendance Intervention Team (AIT) for all students who are excessively absent from school. Such strategies shall include the following, if applicable:

1. Providing a truancy intervention plan for any student who is excessively absent from school;
2. Providing counseling for a habitual truant;
3. Requesting or requiring a parent to attend parental involvement programs;
4. Requesting or requiring a parent to attend truancy prevention mediation programs;
5. Notification of the registrar of motor vehicles of student's truancy status if the student misses 10 consecutive days of instruction or 15 days of instruction during the course of the school year; and
6. Taking legal action under R.C.2919.222, 3321.20, and/or 3321.38.

The reporting of a Habitually Truant student to the courts is not a matter of school policy, but state law (ORC 3321.19 (E)(2)). The schools must comply with the law; therefore, a referral is not a matter of discretion by the School.

Under state law, the Intergenerational Schools must forcibly withdraw a student who misses "72 consecutive instructional hours" of school without a valid excuse.