

ATTENDANCE POLICY

The truancy laws in Ohio have been amended and now require electronic schools to keep track of the number of hours each student is completing lessons on-line or participating in off-line educational activities. Commencing with the 2017-2018 school year, each student will be required to complete on-line/off-line educational opportunities totaling twenty-five (25) hours per week. In addition to this requirement, each student will have an attendance intervention plan developed at the beginning of their attendance at the Greater Ohio Virtual School. If a student fails to participate in one hundred five (105) consecutive hours of learning without a legitimate excuse, the student will be withdrawn according to GOVS procedures.

Truancy Notifications

- Families will receive notification after three (3) days of inactivity.
- Families will receive notification if a student is thirty-eight (38) total hours behind within a 30-day period.
- Families will receive notification if a student is sixty-five (65) total hours behind within a school year.

Truancy Mediation Meeting

- Families will be contacted by the truancy officer to schedule a truancy mediation meeting after six (6) consecutive school days of inactivity.
- Families will be contacted by the truancy officer to schedule a truancy mediation meeting after forty-two (42) total hours behind within a thirty (30) day period.
- Families will be contacted by the truancy officer to schedule a truancy mediation meeting after seventy-two (72) total hours behind within a school year.

Truancy Charges

- If significant progress has not been made as outlined in the individual attendance plan for each student, then charges may be filed.
- Nothing in this attendance policy shall prohibit or restrict the school from initiating legal action against a student and parent for failure to follow the attendance policy at any time (within the provisions of the law).
- Truancy Charges will be filed on the sixty-first (61) day.

Truancy Intervention Team

- When absences amount to habitual truancy as described above, students will be assigned to an absence intervention team within ten (10) days.
- The absence intervention team will develop and/or evaluate the attendance intervention plan within fourteen (14) days and put in place strategies to remedy the truancy.
- Families will be invited to participate, and may designate someone to participate on their behalf, and the GOVS will make three meaningful attempts to involve the parent or designee in the development of the plan. If these attempts are unsuccessful, the plan will be developed without their input. Parents will be notified of the goals of the absence intervention plan.
- Intervention strategies may include the intervention plan specific to the student, counseling for the student, requesting or requiring parents to attend parental involvement and/or truancy prevention mediation programs.
- Students may be referred to the juvenile court's alternative to adjudication program. Students who are referred will be those the absence intervention team believes would benefit most from the referral, and the GOVS will document referrals and review to ensure fairness and evaluate any potential disparate impact based on any protected characteristic.
- All absence intervention plans will include referral to juvenile court after sixty (60) days if the student fails to make satisfactory progress on the plan or alternative adjudication process or fails to participate.

- If the habitual truancy begins within twenty-one (21) school days prior to the end of the school year of instruction, GOVS may assign school official to work with the student's parent(s) to develop an absence intervention plan over the summer and implement the plan no later than seven (7) days prior to the first day of instruction of the next school year, or may convene the absence intervention team on the first day of the next school year.
- If the sixty-first day of intervention pursuant to the absence intervention plan occurs during the summer, GOVS may extend implementation of the plan and delay the filing of a complaint in juvenile court for an additional thirty (30) days after the start of the next school year.

Missed Hours

Students are expected to make up missed hours of instruction within a one week period or complete additional hours leading up to planned events. Excuses for missed hours will be accepted in the following circumstances.

1. Original Doctor's notes may be submitted to excuse a student from missed learning opportunities beyond twenty-five (25) hours due to personal illness, injury or birth of a child. The doctor's note must state that the student was unable to access online learning during a specific time frame (exact dates must be included).
2. Students may be excused due to the death of a parent, guardian or sibling, as well as any good cause that may be acceptable to the Superintendent.

The Ohio Department of Education will be notified whenever a student meets the definition of habitual truant and notice to the family is sent, when the child has been absent without legitimate excuse for the number of hours to qualify as habitual truant, when a student is adjudicated an unruly minor in juvenile court as a result of being a habitual truant, and when an attendance intervention plan has been developed for a student.

Legal References in the Ohio Revised Code

RC 2151.011 (B)(5). A child is a person under eighteen (18) years of age. If a child is adjudicated unruly or delinquent, juvenile court may exercise jurisdiction over them until twenty-one (21) years of age.

RC 2151.011 (B)(18). Habitual Truancy. Absent w/o legitimate excuse thirty (30) or more consecutive hours, forty-two (42) hours in a month, and seventy-two (72) hours per school year.

RC 2151.022 (A/B). An "unruly child" is one who fails to submit to the reasonable control of a parent, teacher, guardian, or custodian.

RC 2919.24. Contributing. Any adult who aids, abets, causes, encourages, or contributes to a child becoming unruly or a delinquent.

RC 3313.609. Truant means absent without excuse.

RC 3321.01 (A)(1). Children between 6-18 years are of compulsory school age in Ohio.

RC 3321.03. It is the duty of each parent to cause his/her child to attend school.

RC 3321.04 (C). The board of education shall prescribe excused occurrences for good and sufficient reasons.

RC 3321.16. An attendance officer shall investigate any case of non-attendance of school for any child under the age of eighteen (18) years of age and a Truancy Intervention Team will be assigned to assist student and parents to re-engage in school.

RC 3321.18. The attendance officer shall initiate proceedings against any parent, guardian, or student to enforce compulsory attendance.

RC 3321.19 (B). No parent, without good cause, shall fail to attend an educational program or compel their child to attend school.

RC 3321.19 (C). The attendance officer shall warn parents, in writing, of the legal consequences of habitual truancy.

RC 3321.16. For truancy, the district may provide intervention strategies or request charges be filed in Juvenile court.

RC 3321.99. Parents may be fined \$500 for truancy violations and may be ordered to perform seventy (70) hours of community service.

RC 3314.03(A)(6)(b) A student is automatically withdrawn from school if the student without a legitimate excuse fails to participate in one hundred five (105) consecutive hours of the learning opportunities offered to the student. ***Legitimate excuse is defined as a doctor's note with student's name and specified dates excused. The legitimate excuse must be submitted and received in the central office before the student has missed 105 consecutive hours of learning opportunities. Only original doctor notes are accepted or notes faxed directly from the doctor's office to GOVS.***