

# SCHOOL ATTENDANCE



**HOUSE BILL 410**

## Why Your Child's Attendance Matters

- Regular attendance is a legal requirement at all grade levels
- Studies have shown that regular attendance correlates to success in school
- Regular attendance means academic learning is not interrupted, less time spent on make-up assignments, student benefits from class participation and interaction with others

### Excessive Absences

#### State of Ohio defines excessive absence as

- **38** or more hours of school missed in a month
- **65** or more hours of school missed in a year
- Hours can be excused or unexcused

#### Once hourly limit is met

- Letter sent home to parents/guardians
- All additional absences **will require** a medical excuse
- If medical excuse not provided, hours accumulate towards student being habitually truant

### Excused Absences Include:

- Personal illness with doctor's note
- Quarantine of Home
- Death in Family
- Absence due to incapacity of a guardian
- Religious Holiday
- School Field Trips
- Superintendent Approval

### Habitually Truant

#### State of Ohio defines habitually truant as

- **30 unexcused consecutive** hours
- **42 or more unexcused** hours of school missed in a month
- **72 or more unexcused** hours of school missed in a school year

#### Once hourly limit is exceeded

- Letter sent home to parents/guardians
- Absence Intervention Plan will be implemented

### Pre-Planned Absences

Pre-Planned absences must follow new attendance guidelines. If a Pre-Planned absence exceeds one of the state hourly limits, a letter will be sent home and medical excuses will be required for additional absences.

*Example: MS/HS student misses five days for a pre-planned absence*

Student has now missed 32 hours of school this month. If they miss 6 more hours this month they will be "excessively absent"

Once a student becomes excessively absent, **all additional absences will require a medical excuse**

### Absence Intervention Team & Plan

#### State of Ohio required Absence Intervention Plan

- **Team creates and implements Absence Intervention Plan to improve/increase student attendance**

#### If school attendance does not improve/increase

- **District Truancy officer notifies Franklin County Juvenile Court and truancy charges are filed**