



Lake Local Schools

Changes to Ohio Truancy and Attendance Law

Attention Lake Local Parents:

The Ohio State Legislature recently made significant changes to Ohio’s school attendance laws. This document will help to clarify those changes and how Lake Local Schools will respond regarding students with excessive absences or truancy concerns. **Lake Local Schools recognizes that each child’s situation is unique and will continue to work with parents to best educate their children. We encourage you to communicate with us to assist in that process.**

The State of Ohio requires schools to address two areas of attendance; truancy and absenteeism.

Habitual truancy refers to a child who fails to attend school **without** a legitimate excuse.

A child is habitually truant if they are absent from school for the following **without a legitimate excuse**:

- 30 consecutive hours (4.3 days)
- 42 hours in 1 month (6 days)
- 72 hours in 1 school year (10.3 days)

A parent with a student that meets the criteria as habitually truant will be required to develop an Absence Intervention Plan with the school to improve attendance habits.

*Failure to follow an Absence Intervention Plan may result in charges being filed with the court.

The second area of attendance defined by House Bill 410 is **Absenteeism**. Excessive Absenteeism or Chronic Absenteeism can occur when a child fails to attend school **with or without a legitimate excuse**.

A child is **Excessive or Chronically Absent** if they are absent from school **with or without a legitimate excuse**:

Excessive Absenteeism

- **38 hours** (5.4 days) **month**
- **42 hours** (6 days) **school year**
- **65 hours** (9.3 days) **in a school year**

Chronic Absenteeism

- **10% or 92 hours** (13.1 days) **in a school year**

District response

Initial Attendance letter

2nd Attendance letter

**Meeting/plan with building administrator
Requirement of medical excuse for absences
3rd Attendance letter**

Lake Local Board Policy defines legitimate excuse as:

- Personal illness of the student
- Illness in the student's family
- Religious reasons
- Needed at home to perform necessary work directly and exclusively for parents or legal guardians
- Traveling out of state to attend a Board-approved enrichment activity or extracurricular activity
- Death in the family
- Quarantine for contagious disease
- As determined by the Superintendent
- Vacations may be excused on a per student basis and should be shared with the building principal in advance

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Vision: To be the leader in addressing the educational, social and physical needs of students and staff

Mission: Educating generations, serving our community

Values: Respect, Integrity, Citizenship, Honesty, Engagement and Responsibility