

Greater Ohio Virtual School Attendance Policy

The truancy laws in Ohio 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. 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fails to participate in seventy-two (72) consecutive hours of learning without a legitimate excuse, the student will be withdrawn according to GOVS procedures. Students are also limited to 10 hours of school work per day, maximum. Once 10 hours has been accumulated for the day, VLA will be locked and not available until the next day. Students may not accumulate time on the home page in VLA and there is an automatic log off after 45 mins of inactivity or idle time.

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 or 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 or after forty-two (42) total hours behind within a thirty (30) day period.

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).

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)(17). 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.*