

## Attendance, Truancy and HB410 (House Bill 410)

Research shows that attendance is an important factor in student achievement. According to the US Department of Education, over 7 million students missed 15 or more days of school in 2015-2016, which translates to 16% of the Student Population, or about 1 in 6 students.

Absence from school can lead to increased academic risk for students' success.

In December 2016, the Ohio General Assembly passed HB 410 to encourage and support a preventative approach to excessive absences and truancy. HB 410's truancy provisions bring Ohio law in compliance with federal law and reduce the number of students referred for formal juvenile court processing for missing school. HB410 emphasizes early intervention and provides opportunities to:

1. Eliminate schools from suspending or expelling students with truancy issues
2. Limit a youth's exposure to the juvenile justice system due to truant behavior.

Frequent absences from school can be devastating to a child's future. The effects start early and spiral dramatically over time.

- A student is chronically absent if he/she missed as few as two days of school a month.
- Children who are chronically absent in preschool, kindergarten, and first grade are much less likely to read on grade level by the third grade.
- Students who cannot read at grade level by the third grade are four times more likely to drop out of high school.
- By high school, attendance is a better dropout indicator than test scores.
- A chronically absent student, in any year between eighth and twelfth grade, is seven times more likely to drop out of school.

Student attendance in Bedford City Schools is a top priority. We would like to partner with our families to identify and reduce barriers to regular school attendance. **The State of Ohio defines excessive absences as a student who is absent with or without a legitimate excuse for 38 or more hours in a month, or 65 or more hours in a school year. The State of Ohio defines a habitually truant student as one who is absent without a legitimate excuse for 30 or more consecutive hours, or 42 or more hours in a month, or 72 or more hours in a school year.**

Bedford City Schools mission statement is “**Inspiring Everyone, Every Day, To Achieve Excellence.**” That can only be accomplished when school, family and community work together to ensure a good attendance record

## [HB410 Frequently Asked Questions](#)

### **Student Absences**

Students ages 6-17 are required to be enrolled in and regularly attend school in Ohio. Legitimate excuses for being absent from school are:

- Personal illness or medically necessary leave
- Illness in the family necessitating the child's presence, as confirmed by a physician
- Quarantine of the home
- Death in the family (3 days maximum absent -showing of reasonable cause for longer)
- Necessary work at home due to parent/guardian's absence/incapacity (10 days maximum)
- Observation of bona fide religious holidays
- Absence due to professional appointments
- Service as a precinct officer in a primary, special or general election
- College visitation
- Out-of-state travel to participate in District-approved enrichment or extra-curricular activities

## **Daily Absences**

If your child is absent from school, we strongly urge you to call the Attendance Office between 8:00 a.m. - 8:30 a.m. The telephone number to the Attendance Office for each school is listed below. Your child's teachers will be notified of the absence. When calling the Attendance Office, please state the reason and anticipated length of this absence. We ask that you do this for the safety of your child. We will contact you if your child is listed on the absence sheet and we have not heard from you. Upon your child's return to school, please send an absence excuse. Students are responsible for the timely completion of work missed due to absences.

### **Bedford High School**

440-439-4609

### **Excel**

440-786-3344

### **Heskett Middle School**

440-439-4485

### **Carylwood Intermediate**

440-439-4509

### **Columbus Intermediate**

440-786-3322

### **Central Primary**

440-439-4225

### **Glendale Primary**

440-439-4227