Crestview Local Schools
Attendance Policy: Frequently Asked Questions

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Crestview Local Schools, in partnership with the Ohio Department of Education, is committed to supporting every student's academic success. Regular school attendance plays a vital role in helping students achieve their full potential. To ensure consistency and understanding, the following information explains the attendance policies outlined in House Bill 96 and implemented by Crestview Local Schools.

Understanding Absences

Q: How did my student reach a Chronic Absence Threshold if I always send a note or doctor's excuse?
The Ohio Department of Education recognizes three types of absences:

1. **Unexcused Absence:** No note is provided by a parent or guardian.
2. **Excused Absence:** A note is provided by a parent or guardian.
3. **Medically Excused Absence:** Documentation is provided by a medical or health professional (such as a doctor, counselor, or social worker).

Even when an absence is excused or medically excused, it still counts toward the total number of hours used to determine chronic absenteeism.

Chronic Absence vs. Truancy

Q: If my student reached a Chronic Absence Threshold, do I need to worry about being charged with truancy?
No. Only **Unexcused Absences** count toward **Habitual Truancy**.

Q: Why did I receive a letter if no action is required?
The Ohio Department of Education requires schools to notify families in writing when a student becomes **5% chronically absent** or when a student becomes **habitually truant**. These letters are meant to keep families informed and to encourage improved attendance.

Truancy and Legal Requirements

Q: How could I possibly be charged with truancy?
Only **Unexcused Absences** count toward **Habitual Truancy** thresholds. A student would need to reach one of the following levels:

- **Consecutive Habitual Truancy:** 30 or more unexcused absence hours (about 5 consecutive school days)
- **Monthly Habitual Truancy:** 42 or more unexcused absence hours (about 7 school days) within one calendar month

- **Yearly Habitual Truancy:** 72 or more unexcused absence hours (about 11 school days) within one school year

If a student reaches one of these thresholds and is not making satisfactory progress in improving attendance, the district is required—beginning **September 30, 2025**—to file a complaint in juvenile court.

Working Together

Crestview Local Schools values the partnership between families and the school community. The goal of these policies is not to punish but to ensure that every student has the opportunity to succeed through consistent attendance. Families are encouraged to communicate with school staff regarding any challenges that may affect attendance so that support and resources can be provided.

Thank you for your continued cooperation and commitment to your child’s education.

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