



# NEW INDIANA STATE LAW

## ATTENDANCE MATTERS



### 5 UNEXCUSED ABSENCES

Public schools are required to hold an attendance conference not later than 10 instructional days (instead of five instructional days) after the student's fifth absence.

### 10 UNEXCUSED ABSENCES

Public schools are legally obligated to send legal notices regarding a student's truant status and file a referral with the Marion County Prosecutor's Office after the 10<sup>th</sup> unexcused absence.

### HABITUAL TRUANCY

By law, public schools refer truant students to the Marion County Prosecutor's Office. Potential charges for parents or guardians include:

- Class B Misdemeanor for failure to ensure school attendance.
- Level 6 Felony for educational neglect.



### ABSENCE TYPES



#### Excused Absences

Absences regarded as legitimate reasons for being out of school as per school policy.

- Illness reported to the school by a parent/guardian
- Illness verified by a note from doctor
- Family funeral
- Religious observance

#### Unexcused Absences

Any absence not covered under the definition of excused or exempt.

- Skipping school or class
- Family vacation outside of school breaks.
- Absence without a valid reason or documentation

#### Exempt Absences

Any absences required or protected by state or federal law. These do not count against a student's attendance record.

- Jury duty
- Election service
- Military obligations
- Foster care court proceedings
- Serving as a legislative page

### WHAT WE CAN DO:

**Always report all absences to your student's school in writing with a reason.** Reported absences due to illness, appointments, funerals, and other situations as defined under Board Policy 5200 are EXCUSED and will not be counted towards Habitual Truancy.



**Make school a priority.** Stay engaged, help your children maintain daily routines, and try not to schedule dental and non-urgent related medical appointments during the school day.



**We are here to help.** Counselors and Social Workers can help provide necessary resources and support. We also inform you of your child's attendance status with notification letters when they reach 5, 9, and 10 days of unexcused absences.

