

Dear Superintendent:

In December 2016, the Ohio General Assembly passed House Bill 410 to encourage and support districts and community schools in preventing excessive absences and truancy. Several changes take effect with the 2017-2018 school year. Districts and community schools that have not already done so must amend or adopt policies that outline their interventions for students who miss too much school.

HB 410 excuses districts and community schools with chronic absenteeism rates of less than 5 percent from the requirement to assign habitually truant students to absence intervention teams. Based on data from the 2016-2017 school year, your district is exempt for the 2017-2018 school year. **This exemption is for the 2017-2018 school year only and does not excuse your district from meeting all other applicable provisions of HB 410, including tracking and reporting student attendance.**

Although your district is exempt from assigning habitually truant students to absence intervention teams for the 2017-2018 school year, your district must provide appropriate interventions for habitually truant students.

District and community school policies should include, at minimum:

1. Appropriate options for truancy intervention for any student who is excessively absent from school;
2. Counseling services for a habitually truant student;
3. The option for parents or guardians to attend parental involvement and truancy prevention mediation programs;
4. Notification of the registrar of motor vehicles under Ohio Revised Code 3321.13; and
5. Taking legal action under ORC 2919.22, 3321.20 or 3321.38.

Your district is required to have its attendance officer file a complaint in juvenile court if those intervention strategies fail within 61 days after implementation and all the following conditions apply:

1. The student was absent without legitimate excuse for 30 or more consecutive hours, 42 or more hours in one school month, or 72 or more hours in a school year;
2. The district or school has made meaningful attempts to re-engage the student through any intervention strategies; and
3. The student has refused to participate in or failed to make satisfactory progress on any offered intervention strategies or alternatives to adjudication.

Please review all HB 410 requirements [here](#).

If you have questions, email school_improvement@education.ohio.gov.