

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.

Beginning with the 2017-2018 school year, HB 410 requires any district or community school with a chronic absenteeism rate of 5 percent or greater to assign habitually truant students to a school or district absence intervention team. This requirement is new and applies to your district or community school for the 2017-2018 school year. It aims at breaking down barriers to attendance without filing criminal complaints against a student in juvenile court.

The purpose of the absence intervention team is to develop and implement a student-centered absence intervention plan for every child who is habitually truant. Intervention plans should identify specific barriers to attendance and facilitate appropriate solutions. The team involves the student and the parent, whenever feasible.

1. Schools are permitted to have their own absence intervention teams, but the district is responsible for developing a team if the school does not have one;
2. Membership of each team should vary based on the needs of each individual student, but each team **MUST** include:
 - a. A representative from the individual's school or district;
 - b. Another representative from the school or district who has a relationship with the child;
 - c. The child's parent (or parent's designee) or the child's guardian, custodian, guardian ad litem or temporary custodian.
3. The district or school may consult or partner with public and nonprofit agencies for assistance, as appropriate, to help students and their families to reduce absences.

When a student becomes habitually truant:

1. Within seven days of the triggering absence, the district must:
 - a. Select members of the absence intervention team;
 - b. Make and document three meaningful attempts to involve the student's parent or guardian on the absence intervention team.
2. Within 10 days of the triggering absence, the district must assign the student to the selected absence intervention team;
3. Within 14 days after the assignment of the team, the district must develop the student's absence intervention plan;
4. If the student fails to make progress on the plan within 61 days or continues to be excessively absent, the district must file a complaint in the juvenile court.

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

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