

Fort Frye Local School District



510 Fifth St. P.O. Box 1149 Beverly, Ohio 45715 Phone: 740-984-2497 Fax: 740-984-8784

Thursday, August 31, 2017

Dear Parent/Guardian,

The State of Ohio has recently passed a new truancy law, Ohio HB 410. Therefore, all Ohio schools are now mandated to enforce this law starting the 2017-2018 school year. The purpose of this letter is to inform you of the mandate. Please know good attendance to school is a vital part of your child's educational success. The Fort Frye Local School District endeavors to reduce truancy through cooperation with families, diligence in investigating the causes of absences, and use of strict guidelines in regard to tardiness and unexcused absence. Ohio HB 410 requires us to take the following steps in an effort to reduce truancy:

- Attendance tracking has changed from days of school to hours of school
- Ohio law now considers students who miss 38 hours (6 days) of school in one month or 65 hours (10 days) in a school year excessive. Please know school districts are now required to notify parents/guardians when a child reaches one of these thresholds. Any future absences will require evidence that explains why the absence from school was necessary (e.g. court document, doctor's note).
- In addition, please note that any child absent for 30 unexcused hours in a row (5 days), 42 hours unexcused hours in a month (7 days), or 72 unexcused hours (12 days) in a school year a student will be considered habitually truant.
- Once a student has met the threshold of habitual truant the district forms an Absence Intervention Team. The team must at least consist of two school representatives (one of which must be familiar with the child), the child's parent/ guardian, and the child. Please note that the student and the parent/guardian are both required by law to be active participants on an Absence Intervention Team and follow any subsequent plan to improve school attendance. Failure to participate and comply may result in the immediate truancy filing on the student and possible filing against the parent/ guardian through juvenile court. Additionally, if the parent/ guardian fails to participate, it may result in a mandatory referral to Washington County Children Services.

We hope that you will work with us to see that your child regularly attends school so none of the protocols described here are necessary. Please be sure to report your child(ren)'s absences to the school by contacting us directly the day of the absence. If a doctor was seen, please send the doctor's excuse to school the day the child returns to school.

Thank you,

Dr. Stephanie D. Starcher

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Stephanie Starcher", is written over the typed name.

Superintendent Fort Frye Local Schools