



Ohio House Bill 410 Impact on NU

A plan to encourage student attendance.



Ohio HB 410 - ODE Statement

It is important for every Ohio student to attend school every day. Missing too much school has long-term, negative effects, such as lower achievement and lower graduation rates. The Ohio General Assembly passed House Bill 410 last December to encourage and support districts in a preventative approach to excessive absences and truancy. Starting in the 2017-2018 school year, schools cannot suspend or expel students for missing too much school. Districts must amend or adopt policies that outline their interventions and plans for students with excessive absences. The legislation emphasizes parent engagement and accountability as part of a student's absence intervention plan.



NU BOE Policy Statement

Regular attendance by all students is very important. In many cases, irregular attendance is the major reason for poor schoolwork; therefore, all students are urged to make appointments, do personal errands, etc., outside of school hours.

The Board does not believe that students should be excused from school for vacations or other non-emergency trips. The responsibility for such absences resides with the parent(s), and they must not expect any work missed by their child to be retaught by the teacher. If the school is notified in advance of such a trip, reasonable efforts are made to prepare a general list of assignments for the student to do while he/she is absent.



Reasons for Excused Absence

Reasons for which students may be excused include, but are not limited to:

1. Personal illness of student;
2. Illness in the student's family;
3. Needed at home to perform necessary work directly and exclusively for parents or legal guardians (applies to students over 14 years of age only.)
4. Death in the family
5. Quarantine for contagious disease;
6. Religious reasons
7. Traveling out of state to attend a Board-approved enrichment activity or extracurricular activity (Applies to absences up to 24 hours, if more than 24 hours, a classroom teacher employed by the board must accompany the student to provide instructional assistance.)
8. As determined by the Superintendent. (only extraordinary circumstances, *not vacations*)

THE PROCESS - What to
do in the case of a
student absence.





The Process - Student Absence

Parents must notify the school on the day a student is absent unless previous notification has been given in accordance with school procedure for excused absences.

1. If a parent or student knows ahead of time that a student will be absent from school, excused or unexcused, the parent shall submit a “Prearranged Student Absence Form”
 - a. This form is available on the district website on the “Parents” tab on the “Forms” link. <http://www.n-union.k12.oh.us/Forms.aspx>
 - b. EXCUSED ABSENCES WILL ONLY BE ASSIGNED IF WRITTEN DOCUMENTATION SUPPORTING ONE OF THE EIGHT (8) REASONS FOR EXCUSED ABSENCE.**
2. If the absence is not known ahead of time, the parent shall notify the school via telephone, or from the parent e-address registered in the infosnap system.
 - a. NUES - 740-943-3113, nuesabsence@nu-district.org
 - b. NUMS - 740-943-2369, numsabsence@nu-district.org
 - c. NUHS - 740-943-3012, nuhsabsence@nu-district.org

**North Union Local School District
Pre-Arranged Student Notice of Absence Form**

Please submit this form, when possible, at least (5) five days prior to absence.

This document is intended to inform the staff at our schools about student absences that are pre-arranged. We appreciate the completion of this form for any absences that students or families may have prior knowledge. If possible, please complete this form and return to the building office at least 5 days before the absence.

It is important for every Ohio student to attend school every day. Missing too much school has long-term, negative effects, such as lower achievement and lower graduation rates. The Ohio General Assembly passed [House Bill 411](#) last December to encourage and support districts in a proactive approach to excused absences and truancy. Starting in the 2017-2018 school year, schools cannot suspend or expel students for missing too much school. Districts must amend or adopt policies that outline their interventions and plans for students with excessive absences. The legislation emphasizes parent engagement and accountability as part of a student's absence intervention plan.

The Board does not believe that students should be excused from school for vacations or other non-emergency trips. The responsibility for such absences resides with the parent(s), and they must not expect any work missed by their child to be caught by the teacher. If the school is notified in advance of such a trip, reasonable efforts are made to prepare a general list of assignments for the student to do while he/she is absent.

Five pre-arranged absences will be approved by the Superintendent. For example, students who are actively participating, and an absence is needed to participate in the Ridgeway Fair will be approved with documentation from advice.

TRUANT STUDENTS

Administrative regulations related to student absences and truancy will be implemented as follows:

1. A student is considered habitually truant when:
 - a. Absent 30 or more consecutive hours without a legitimate excuse,
 - b. Absent 62 or more hours in one school month without a legitimate excuse,
 - c. Absent 72 or more hours in one school year without a legitimate excuse.
2. Excessive absences are defined as:
 - a. Absent 38 or more hours in one school month with or without a legitimate excuse;
 - b. Absent 62 or more hours in one school year with or without a legitimate excuse.
3. Any student who is considered habitually truant or with excessive absences will be referred to a Absence Intervention Team where an Absence Intervention Plan will be developed.
4. Regarding tardiness to school, arrival after the start of school will result in at least one hour absence, two hours are counted accordingly, extending up.
5. Medical verification may be required for any excused absence due to personal illness that exceed sixty (60) hours in a school year. For the purposes of verifying excused absence for personal illness, medical verification will be defined as a statement by a licensed physician or psychologist that a bodily or mental condition exists which does not permit school attendance.
6. For students in grades K-8, an unexcused absence is due to pre-arranged family vacation and arrangements have been made to cover but work is "waived" (counting neither as credit nor as D's) in terms of grading.
7. For students in grades 9-12, if two hours of direct tutoring at parent/teacher expense is provided and documented for each day of unexcused absence due to a pre-arranged vacation, and if work is completed for grading.
8. In grades 9-12, the student may take the exam in a course that has been failed due to excessive absences/truancy.
9. In the interest of learning, all work should be made up at all grade levels, and makeup work will be accepted in all grades. "Direct tutoring" may be documented by the parent, and does not have to be a "paid" tutor.

* Reference board policy 31D, 31DA and 31D-R at <http://www.n-union.k12.oh.us/forms/parent-notice-absence>
 * Access reference to Student-Parent Handbook pages 10-11 <http://www.n-union.k12.oh.us/forms/parents.aspx> under "Downloads." Rev. 08/17/16

**North Union Local School District
Pre-Arranged Student Notice of Absence Form**

Please submit this form, when possible, at least (5) five days prior to absence.

Student Name: _____ School: NUES NUMS NUMS

Parent Name: _____ Date(s) of Absence: _____

Address: _____ City: _____ Zip: _____

Parent Signature: _____ Date: _____

(office use) Absent Days: with excuse _____ with excuse _____ Total _____

Unexcused Absence Note: _____

Excused Absence, reasons for which absences may be excused, please check the appropriate box:

- 1. personal (Name of the student)
- 2. illness in the student's family
- 3. needed at home to perform necessary work directly and exclusively for parents or legal guardian (applicable to students over 14 years of age only)
- 4. death in the family
- 5. quarantine for contagious disease
- 6. religious reasons
- 7. traveling out of state to attend a Board approved extracurricular activity or educational activity (24 days) (applicable to absences of up to 5 days)
- 8. As determined by the Superintendent. (Superintendent Signature Required)

Parent, please state reason for absence and attach supporting documentation: _____

Principal Signature: _____ Date: _____

Supt. Signature (applicable to #8 only): _____ Date: _____

Supt. Approved Not Approved due to: _____

* Students and Families: Please present this form with completed approval signatures to teachers within five (5) days of absence to obtain missing assignments. Upon completion please return to office before the absence. office initial:

Class	Assignment (Teachers, please attach additional documentation if necessary.)	Expected Date of Completion	Teacher Initials

* Reference board policy 31D, 31DA and 31D-R at <http://www.n-union.k12.oh.us/forms/parent-notice-absence>
 * Access reference to Student-Parent Handbook pages 10-11 <http://www.n-union.k12.oh.us/forms/parents.aspx> under "Downloads." Rev. 08/17/16

This form is to be completed when prior knowledge of any absence is known, and is available on the district website at <http://www.n-union.k12.oh.us/Forms.aspx>



The Process - Student Absence

Parents must notify the school on the day a student is absent unless previous notification has been given in accordance with school procedure for excused absences.

1. Students are requested to bring a note to school after each absence explaining the reason for the absence or tardiness unless a call or email or submission of pre arranged absence form was previously sent.
2. Medical verification may be required for any excused absences due to personal illness that exceed sixty (60) hours in a school year. For the purposes of verifying excused absence for personal illness, medical verification will be defined as a statement by a licensed physician or psychologist that a bodily or mental condition exists which does not permit school attendance.



The Process - Student Absence

The principal or his/her designee is also required to notify a student's parent(s) when the student is absent from school. The parent(s) or other responsible person shall be notified by telephone or written notice, which is mailed on the same day that the student is absent. Parents or other responsible persons shall provide the school with their current home and/or work telephone numbers, home addresses and any emergency telephone numbers.

Each student who is absent must immediately, upon return to school, make arrangements with his/her teacher(s) to make up work missed. Students who are absent from school for reasons not permitted by State law may, or may not, be permitted to make up work. Each case is considered on its merits by the principal and the respective teacher(s). Students are requested to bring a note to school after each absence explaining the reason for the absence or tardiness.

THE DEFINITION -
Habitually Truant and
Excessively Absent





Definition of Truancy

- Definition of 'habitual truant' changed from days to hours. The new definition is:
 - Absent 30 or more consecutive hours without a legitimate excuse;
 - Absent 42 or more hours in one school month without a legitimate excuse;
 - Absent 72 or more hours in one school year without a legitimate excuse.



Definition of Excessive Absences

- ‘Excessive absences’ are defined:
 - Absent 38 or more hours in one school month **with or without** a legitimate excuse;
 - Absent 65 or more hours in one school year **with or without** a legitimate excuse.
- Tardiness starts as a one hour absence.
 - Considered one hour if arrive after the bell.
 - Hours are counted accordingly.

THE RESPONSE - What happens when a student is Habitually Truant or Excessively Absent?





Response to Truant Behavior

- Response to excessive absences and habitually truant are the same
- Truancy is “decriminalized.”
 - Truancy is removed from district zero tolerance policy.
 - Students cannot be expelled or suspended (out of school) for being truant.
 - The district must take several steps to engage the student and family before filing a complaint with juvenile court.
 - Parental notification
 - Convene **Absence Intervention Team**
 - Implement **Absence Intervention Plan**



School Response to Truant Behavior

- Student work may, or may not, be made up. Each case is considered by the Principal and Teacher.
- Superintendent may deny student driving privileges if student has been absent more than 60 consecutive hours without legitimate excuse or 90 hours in a year.
- When a student's absences surpass the threshold for habitual truant or excessive absences, the principal assigns the student to an **Absence Intervention Team** within 10 days.

ABSENCE INTERVENTION TEAM





Absence Intervention Team

- Assigned within ten (10) days of triggering event.
- Members
 - Student and Parent
 - Principal or Assistant Principal
 - Regular Education Teacher
 - Optional
 - School Counselor
 - Social Worker
 - Intervention Specialist
 - Other Student Support Personnel
 - Community Support Personnel



Absence Intervention Team

- The purpose of the team is to assist students and their families in reducing absences.
- Within seven days, if parent is unresponsive to at least three attempts by letter or phone call to convene, district will investigate whether the failure to respond triggers mandatory reporting to the appropriate children's services agency and the team will develop a plan without the parent.
- The team will develop an **Absence Intervention Plan**



Absence Intervention Plan

- Within fourteen (14) days after the assignment of the team, the district will develop an **Absence Intervention Plan**



Absence Intervention Plan may include the following. . .

- Counseling for a habitual truant;
- Request or require a parent having control of a habitual truant to attend parental involvement programs or truancy mediation programs. (Could include NUniversity Community Events.)
- Notification to the registrar of motor vehicles or
- Taking appropriate legal action - **file a complaint in juvenile court**



Filing a Complaint in Juvenile Court

Union County Probate / Juvenile Court,
Judge Charlotte Coleman Eufinger

- Filed on 61st day after implementation of the Absence Intervention Plan (AIP) if. . .
- Absences have surpassed habitually truant;
- District has made meaningful attempts to re-engage through AIP, strategies, and alternatives to adjudication and
- The student has refused to participate in or failed to make satisfactory progress on the plan or offered intervention strategies or alternatives to adjudication as determined by the absence intervention team.



Filing a Complaint in Juvenile Court

Union County Probate / Juvenile Court,
Judge Charlotte Coleman Eufinger

Unless the AIT determines the student has made substantial progress on their AIP, the principal or assistant principal must file a complaint against the student in juvenile court if the student is absent without legitimate excuse for 30 or more consecutive hours or 42 or more hours during a school month at any time during the implementation phase of the AIP or other intervention strategy.

11.2 %

Chronic Absenteeism Rate for the district in 2015-16.

- 18.5 % at NUHS
- 11.4 % at NUMS
- 6.5 % at NUES



13.1 %

Chronic Absenteeism Rate for the district in 2016-17.





Student Absences are Addressed in Board Policy

JED, JED-R, JEDA



Thank YOU!

Working positively
together, we will achieve
student success.