

Ripley Union Lewis Huntington Local Schools

James L. Wilkins II
Superintendent

Parents

Ohio House Bill 410 has completely changed the way schools must deal with truancy and absenteeism.

The new law creates a new process for youth who are missing school: Under current law, Ohio schools are required to have a list of interventions they can use for students who are absent. However, schools are not required to use these interventions and instead can refer youth directly to the juvenile court without any intervention.

HB 410 creates a new process as follows: - **The school must notify the student's parent, guardian, or custodian that the student is missing school;** - After this notification, the school must start utilizing interventions with the student as laid out in school policy; -

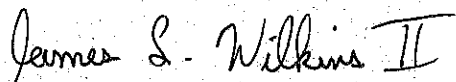
If the student continues to miss school, the school must refer the student to an absence intervention team to create a specific intervention plan for that student. This team must include an administrator, a teacher, and the student's parent or guardian and can also include a school psychologist, counselor, social worker, and representatives of local public or nonprofit agencies that can provide services to the student. - If the student does not comply with the plan or continues to miss school, they can be referred to the juvenile court to participate in a diversion program. If the program is not successful, then the student can be formally processed under truancy charges. However, formal filing in juvenile court must be a last resort.

As a result, you may be receiving correspondence via mail or email notifying you that your student is in this process for both excused or unexcused absences (including tardies).

The school district is developing new truancy and absenteeism policies to comply with this new law and these policies will be available on the district web site in the near future.

It is critically important for all of Ohio's students to stay connected to educational opportunities and school and we ask you to work with us to ensure your students success through excellent attendance at school.

Sincerely,



James L. Wilkins II

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