



## Huber Heights City School District

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Susan M. Gunnell, Superintendent

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Dear Parents and Guardians:

August 14, 2017

In December 2016, the Ohio General Assembly passed House Bill 410. This bill supports a preventative approach to excessive student absences and tardiness. As a result of House Bill 410 (H.B. 410), local Boards of Education throughout Ohio were required to update attendance policies to align the requirements for student attendance outlined in H.B. 410.

As the parent/guardian of a student attending the Huber Heights City School District, I wanted to make you aware of the changes in student attendance requirements as outlined in H.B. 410 and our own local attendance policies JED, JED-R, and JEDA. **One of the most significant changes is that student absences are now calculated by hours, including tardiness and/or early sign-outs.**

**Under the new law, a student who is absent without a legitimate excuse for 30 or more consecutive hours, 42 or more hours in one month, or 72 or more hours in a school year is considered a "habitual truant".** Once a student is identified as a "habitual truant", the student is assigned to the absence intervention team. It is the responsibility of this team to develop a student specific intervention plan targeted at reducing and/or eliminating any additional student absences. Parents and/or guardians are contacted to be a part of their child's absence intervention plan. The absence intervention plan is a student-centered plan that includes strategies and supports designed to help improve the student's attendance. **It must also include a statement that the school district will file a complaint in juvenile court within 61 days after the date the plan is implemented if the student refuses to participate or fails to make satisfactory progress.**

Huber Heights City School District Board Policy JED outlines the reasons for which students may be excused from school. These include, but are not limited to: 1.) Personal illness 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 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 of up to 24 school hours) or 8.) As determined by the Superintendent.

The new law also addresses students with "excessive absences". **Students with "excessive absences" are students that are absent 38 or more school hours in one month with or without a legitimate excuse and/or students that are absent 65 or more school hours in one school year with or without a legitimate excuse.** When a student is identified as "excessively absent", parents are notified and the

student will follow the district's plan for absence intervention. Parents and students may also be referred to available community resources.

The table below outlines the differences between "habitual truancy" and "excessive absences."

	<b>Consecutive Hours</b>	<b>Hours per School Month</b>	<b>Hours per School Year</b>
<b>Habitual Truancy</b>	30 <i>without</i> a legitimate excuse	42 <i>without</i> a legitimate excuse	72 <i>without</i> a legitimate excuse
<b>Excessive Absences</b>	N/A	38 <i>with or without</i> a legitimate excuse	65 <i>with or without</i> a legitimate excuse

There is no doubt that for our students, school attendance each and every school day is very important. ***When a student is not in school it becomes very difficult for him/her to learn the important content taught during the absence(s).*** Poor attendance has a negative impact on both student achievement and graduation rates. House Bill 410 outlines a process to help students and families dealing with school attendance issues. For additional information about our district's revised attendance policies, please visit our website, [www.huberheightscityschools.org](http://www.huberheightscityschools.org). You can also contact your child's principal or the administration offices.

Sincerely,

Susan M. Gunnell  
Superintendent of Schools

*Empowering our students to be academically and socially prepared for their future through the support of excellent teachers and staff, families, and community partners.*