

Attendance Quick Facts for Parents

It is important for every student to attend school every day. Missing too much school has long-term, negative effects on students, such as lower achievement and graduation rates. In December 2016, the Ohio General Assembly passed House Bill 410 to encourage and support a preventative approach to excessive absences and truancy. Fredericktown Local Schools is implementing the changes required by House Bill 410, which is encompassed in detail in the Student/Parent Handbook. Below are the major points for parents:

- When your student is absent from school please call the school to report the absence.
- If your child is sent home due to illness by the nurse, please send in a note for the partial day absences upon return.
- Students are permitted **72 hours of absences** (11 days) before a doctor's excuse is required. The 72 hours may be accumulated through excused absences, unexcused absences, or a combination of both.
- Once a student has accumulated **72 hours, a doctor's note is required** for any additional absences in order to be excused. Doctor's excuses do not count toward the 72 hour limit.
- An absence **note signed by the parent/guardian or physician must be presented to the office within three (3) days of the student returning to school**. Failure to produce an acceptable note from the parent or guardian within three (3) school days following an absence will result in an unexcused absence.
- **Excused absence reasons** are: personal illness, death of a relative, alternative learning experience (with prior approval), or religious holiday.
- Any student who has been absent for a period of **30 consecutive hours** (5 days) or more due to personal illness **must present a note from a physician** before he/she is given an excused absence for days missed.
- A student will be considered **habitually truant** if the student is absent without a legitimate excuse for **30 or more consecutive school hours (5 days), for 42 or more school hours in one month (6 days), or 72 or more school hours in one school year (11 days)**.
- A student is considered to have **excessive absences** if the student is absent without legitimate excuse for **38 or more hours in one school month (6 days), or for 65 or more hours in one school year (9 days)**.
- If a student is deemed excessively absent or habitually truant then the district will contact the parents, parents will come in to meet with the **Attendance Intervention Team** to develop an **attendance intervention plan**, and if the student does not make progress on the plan then the **district files charges through Knox County Juvenile Court**.