

Attendance - Every Day Counts!

Schools are required to keep records of every excused and unexcused absence for each student. Parents and guardians should call the school to report a student's absence before **9:30 AM** for each day a student is absent.

The parent or guardian **must** supply the school with a verbal or written excuse within one week of the student's return. Any verbal or written excuse provided after this time will not be accepted unless approved, in writing, by the principal. If no valid excuse is received, the absence will be considered unexcused, which may result in a referral to juvenile court for educational neglect or truancy.

The District reserves the right to request additional information to excuse any absence. It's critical that students check in with the Attendance Office when they arrive. Students who do not check in may be marked with an unexcused absence for the day.

Any student who is withdrawn must be re-enrolled at Central Enrollment. However, if a student is withdrawn due to an expulsion, that student (and parent) shall report to the office of the last school of attendance (unless notified of a school transfer) and present proof of residence.

House Bill 410

In December 2016, the Ohio General Assembly passed HB410 to address the importance of regular school attendance and the negative impact that excessive absences may have on a student's academic success. To support the academic advancement of our students, the District will partner with students and families to identify and reduce the barriers that may impact regular school attendance. HB410 removes the definition of "chronic truant." **The definition of "habitual truant" changes from days to hours.** The new definition is:

- a. Absent 30 or more consecutive hours without legitimate excuse
- b. Absent 42 or more hours in one school month without legitimate excuse
- c. Absent 72 or more hours in one school year without legitimate excuse

The law also includes "excessive absences" where a parent or guardian will be notified if a student is:

- d. Absent 38 hours or more in one school month **with** or **without** legitimate excuse
- e. Absent 65 or more hours in one school year **with** or **without** legitimate excuse

The law requires assignment of a student who exceeds the "habitual truant" thresholds to be assigned to an absence intervention team where members of the team will include the parent/guardian and designated school staff. The team will develop an intervention plan to address the attendance barriers. This plan will be monitored for progress. In the event progress is not made within a 60 day period of time, the absence team is required to file a complaint for truancy with the Franklin County Juvenile Court. For additional information regarding HB410 please visit the Ohio Department of Education website at education.ohio.gov.

Student Dress Code

1. All clothing shall be within the bounds of decency and good taste as appropriate for school. Clothing shall be sufficient to conceal undergarments at all times.

- Dresses, skirts, or shorts shall be within the bounds of decency and good taste and not shorter than mid-thigh.
- No sleep wear.
- No bare midriffs. As a test for appropriate length, no bare midsection shall be exposed when arms are raised above the head.
- Tops may not be low cut, off the shoulder or otherwise revealing. Tube tops, spaghetti strap tops, halter tops and/or any strapless top or dress which reveals the midriff or breasts are neither acceptable nor permitted.
- No undershirts shall be worn as outerwear.
- Clothing may not be "see through."
- Shirts must be worn at all times and must be sized appropriately so that they do not interfere with normal school activities.
- Shorts, pants, and skirts shall have no writing across the seat area.
- Clothes may not be tight or form fitting.

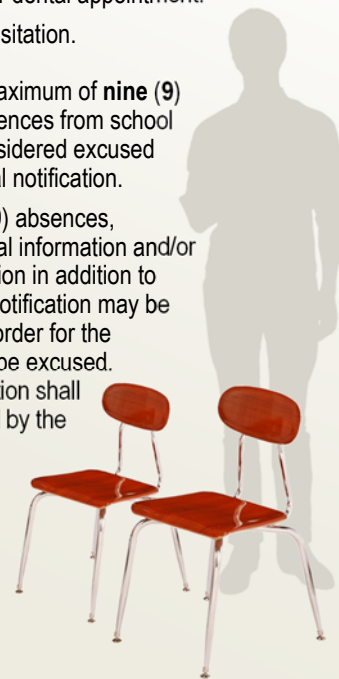
EXCUSED ABSENCE

An absence is recorded as excused for the following:

- Personal illness or quarantine.
- Illness or death in the immediate household.
- Emergencies or any other occurrences or situations which, in the judgment of the Superintendent or designee, may necessitate absence from school for good and sufficient cause.
- Religious holiday.
- Medical or dental appointment.
- College visitation.

NOTE: A maximum of **nine (9)** student absences from school may be considered excused with parental notification.

After nine (9) absences, supplemental information and/or documentation in addition to the parent notification may be required in order for the absence to be excused. Documentation shall be reviewed by the principal.



Student Dress Code *(continued)*

2. Shoes must be worn at all times. Flip-flops, slippers/bedroom shoes and beach shoes are not permitted.
3. Commercial lettering or printing will be allowed on shirts and sweatshirts as long as it is acceptable for school attire.
 - Clothing and jewelry shall be free of writing, pictures or any other insignia which are crude, vulgar, profane, sexually suggestive or which advocate negative racial, ethnic, gender or religious prejudice, or use or glorification of drugs, tobacco, alcohol or violence.
 - Metal studded collars and chains hanging from clothing are not allowed.
4. Hats, caps and other types of head covering (other than for religious purposes) shall not be worn inside school buildings.
5. Sunglasses are approved for wear outside, but not for inside the school building.
6. Students may wear Bermuda shorts, walking shorts or other shorts within the following guidelines:
 - Shorts must be hemmed and straight legged.
 - The length of shorts must be within the bounds of decency and in good taste as appropriate for school.
 - Shorts must be no shorter than two inches above the knee, and must be worn to the waist. Sagging shorts are not allowed.
 - Short shorts or gym shorts are not to be worn other than for physical education courses.
7. Long pants are allowed for both boys and girls. The fullness of pants must not interfere with normal school activities and must be neat and clean at all times. All long pants must be proper waist size, length and leg size (no sagging; no oversized clothing).
 - Students wearing overalls or other bib type attire must have the straps buttoned appropriately and wear an acceptable shirt or blouse underneath.
 - The waist of the pants must not be more than one inch bigger than the correctly measured student waist size.
 - Pants cannot be gathered or drawn together at the waist and must not hang below the waist.
 - Pant inseams must be appropriately sized for the student. Pant length should not touch or drag on the ground.
 - Belts must not be more than three (3) inches longer than the student's measured waist size.



Some schools in the District have a **uniform policy**, and all clothing shall be within the bounds of decency and good taste as appropriate for school.

Gang Symbols and Gang-Related Apparel

The Board of Education desires to keep District schools and students free from the threats or harmful influences of any groups or gangs which advocate drug use or disruptive behavior. For purpose of these guidelines, "gang related apparel" is defined as apparel that, if worn or displayed on campus, could be determined to threaten the health and safety of the school environment.

