

Why Do Children Miss School?

Cannot Attend

- ◆ Illness, family responsibility, housing instability, need to work, or involved with the juvenile justice system.

Won't Attend

- ◆ Want to avoid being bullied, unsafe conditions on the way to or from school, harassment, or embarrassment.

Don't Attend

- ◆ Don't see the value of school, they have something else they'd rather do, no one prevents them from skipping school

Why Does It Matter?

- ◆ Children who are chronically absent in preschool, kindergarten, and 1st grade are much less likely to read on grade level by 3rd grade.
- ◆ Students who can't read at grade level by 3rd grade are four times more likely to drop out of high school.
- ◆ By high school, regular attendance is a better dropout indicator than test scores.
- ◆ A student who is chronically absent in any year between 8th and 12th grade is seven times more likely to drop out of school.

Elida Local Schools Mission Statement:

Elida Schools will promote a community of lifelong learning in a safe, non-hostile environment that encourages the development of full human potential and responsible citizenship.

Superintendent
Joel Mengerink

Board of Education
Barry Barnt
Jason Bowers
Jeff Christoff
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Brenda Stocker

Elida Local Schools

4380 Sunnydale Avenue
Elida, OH 45807



*Inspired By Tradition,
Educating for Tomorrow*

New Attendance Laws

Attendance Contacts:

High School	419-331-6116
Middle School	419-331-2505
Elementary School	419-331-7901

House Bill 410 Changes School Attendance Law

Now that House Bill 410 is in effect beginning with the 2017-18 school year, attendance will be looked at differently than everyone is used to. Absences are no longer counted as days absent – they will now be referred to as hours absent. One school day is considered 6.5 hours for the high school and middle school, and 6 hours for the elementary. This will have an impact in the way tardies and absences are noted in the system.

What is Considered Excessive Absences?

State law now sets a threshold for students to be considered having excessive absences. This is a student who misses 38 or more hours of school in one month *with or without a legitimate excuse*, or a student who has missed 65 or more hours of school in one school year *with or without a legitimate excuse*. This is in accordance with Ohio Revised Code (ORC) 3321.191.

What is Considered Truant?

If the student is absent for 30 or more consecutive hours, 42 or more hours in one school month, or 72 or more hours in a school year *without a legitimate excuse*, the student will meet the definition of “Habitual Truant” pursuant to ORC 2151.011.

Habitual Truant Requirements

- ◆ If a student is deemed “habitual truant”, this will require the student to be assigned to an absence intervention team at the direction of the Superintendent, or designee. As required by ORC 3321.191(c)(2)(e), the student and you as a parent/guardian will be required to participate in the intervention plan.
- ◆ Failure to participate will result in our mandatory duty to report child abuse or neglect to the Allen County Children Services.
- ◆ Ohio Law requires a complaint to be filed with the Allen County Juvenile Courts if the student fails to make satisfactory progress during the intervention plan.

Excused Absences

- ◆ Personal Illness (a written physician’s statement verifying the illness may be required).
- ◆ Death in the family.
- ◆ Observation or celebration of a bona fide religious holiday.
- ◆ A parent note does not automatically excuse an absence or tardy from a truancy referral.

What to do if Your Child is Going to be Absent

- ◆ Call the school before 9:00 am to report the child’s absence to the high school and middle school, and by 10:30 am to the elementary school.
- ◆ When a student returns to school after an absence, he/she must bring a note from his/ her parent or guardian or a doctor stating the reason for each absence. The note must include a working number to contact the parent.
- ◆ Whenever possible, please schedule doctor and dental appointments after school. If your child attends an appointment during the school day, please return him/her to school following the appointment, with an excuse from the doctor’s office.
- ◆ In the event of a prolonged absence (1+ weeks), contact your principal’s secretary for work assignments and provide a doctor’s statement upon the student’s return.
- ◆ If the excessive absences are for reasons other than medical issues, please take corrective action to address the absences. As you know, good attendance is vital to achieving academic success. Good attendance is also important in helping your child have a positive and successful school experience.