



Curtis Fisher, Principal

MILLER AVENUE ELEMENTARY GARAWAY LOCAL SCHOOLS

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Dear Parent/Guardian(s) of,

In December 2016, the Ohio General Assembly passed House Bill 410 changing the law for “habitually truant” and “excessively absent” commencing with the 2017-2018 school year. Garaway Local School District amended and adopted policies that are required by law. The following is the definition of “habitually truant,” as defined by law.

- Absent 30 or more consecutive hours (equivalent to approximately 4.5 days) **without** a legitimate excuse;
- Absent 42 or more hours (equivalent to approximately 6.5 days) in one school month **without** a legitimate excuse; or
- Absent 72 or more hours (equivalent to approximately 11 days) in one school year **without** a legitimate excuse.

Additional steps must be taken when a student is deemed “habitually truant” in any of these circumstances. The attendance officer is required to contact the parent regarding the date and time of a meeting set by the school’s Attendance Intervention Team (AIT) that the parent is required to attend. Failure to attend may result in the school district contacting Children’s Services. During this meeting, the AIT will develop an absence intervention plan. The school’s AIT will monitor and evaluate the intervention plan during implementation. Failure to follow and meet the plan requirements will result in the district filing an official complaint with the Tuscarawas County Juvenile Court.

House Bill 410 also defined “excessively absent” as following:

- Absent 38 or more hours (equivalent to approximately 6 days) in one school month **with or without** a legitimate excuse; or
- Absent 65 or more hours (equivalent to 10 days) in one school year **with or without** a legitimate excuse.

Students deemed “excessively absent” in either of these circumstances will be sent a letter from the school district notifying them of excessive absences. No further action will need to be taken at this time, but further action may be required if the absences continue.

In order to maximize your child’s daily instruction, it is important he or she attend school regularly. Please assist the school district in making every effort to ensure the attendance of your child.

Yours in education,
Jason Wallick, Attendance Office