

Why Do Children Miss School?

Cannot Attend

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

Won't Attend

*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, something else they'd rather do, no one prevents them from skipping school.

Why Does It Matter?

*Children who are chronically absent in pre-school, 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.

Lima City Schools

755 St. Johns Ave

Lima, Ohio 45804

[Www.limacityschools.org](http://www.limacityschools.org)

Find us on



WHERE EVERY

MINUTE

COUNTS



New Attendance Laws

Attendance Contacts

Lima Senior: 419-996-3536

Alternative School: 419-996-3790

West Middle School: 419-996-3150

North Middle School: 419-996-3100

Heritage Elementary: 419-996-3390

Independence: 419-996-3330

Freedom Elementary: 419-996-3380

Liberty Arts Magnet: 419-996-3320

South Sci-Tech: 419-996-3190

Unity Elementary: 419-996-3300

House Bill 410 Changes School Attendance Laws

House Bill 410 is now in effect. This means attendance will be looked at differently than the past. 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 high school and middle school, and 6 hours for elementary. This will have an impact in the way tardiness and absences are noted in the system.

What is Considered Excessive Absences?

State law now sets a threshold for 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 misses 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 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 as soon as possible in the morning to report absence.

*When a student returns to school, he/she must bring a note from a 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 return.

*If the absences are for reasons other than medical, please take corrective action to address the absences. Good attendance is vital to achieving academic success. Good attendance is also important in helping children have a positive and successful school experience.