

## NOTICE TO PARENTS OR GUARDIANS Truancy Bill

Ohio House Bill 410 creates a new process for youth who are missing school. The following is a summary of House Bill 410.

- Habitual Truant is defined as a child who is absent without legitimate excuse for 30 or more consecutive hours, 42 or more hours in one school month, or 72 or more hours in a school year.
- The Attendance Officer is to provide written notification to the parent(s) or guardian(s) when the child has been absent from school, with or without legitimate excuse, for 38 or more hours in one school month or 65 hours or more in one school year. Schools may implement intervention strategies at the time notice is issued.
- A complaint shall be filed in the Juvenile Court on the 61<sup>st</sup> day after implementation of a school intervention plan if all of the following apply: a) the student was absent without legitimate excuse for 30 or more consecutive hours, 42 or more hours in one school month, and 72 or more hours in a school year; b) the school has made meaningful attempts to re-engage the student through intervention strategies; and c) the student refused to participate or failed to make satisfactory progress on the intervention strategies.
- Complaints may be filed against both the parent(s) and child (if the child is age appropriate). Penalties for the parents include requiring the parent to participate in a truancy prevention mediation program, requiring the parent to post a bond of not more than \$500.00, requiring the parent to pay a fine of not more than \$500.00, or requiring the parent to complete 70 hours Community Service
- A parent may also be charged with a violation of Ohio Revised Code Section 2919.24, Contributing to the Unruliness of a Child, a misdemeanor of the first degree. This offense is punishable by a maximum sentence of six months in jail and/or a maximum fine of \$1,000.00.
- Dispositions for the child may include being placed on probation, placed on a curfew or house arrest, ordered to complete Community Service hours, ordered to complete any counseling or programs as referred by the Court, suspension of Operator's License, and/or placement in foster care. Failure to comply with terms of probation may result in a finding of delinquency. If a child is adjudicated a delinquent child and is found to have violated a valid Court order, the child may be placed in a juvenile detention center for a period of time specified by the Court.

Truancy is a serious matter for both the parents and the child. Parents are encouraged to work with the school to solve their child's truancy problem to avoid the necessity of filing complaints with the Juvenile Court. If you have any questions regarding House Bill 410 or Truancy issues, please contact your school's Attendance Officer or the Henry County Juvenile Court.