

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.

Trotwood-Madison City Schools Mission Statement

The mission of the Trotwood-Madison City Schools is to graduate all students prepared to excel in a global society with a commitment to lifelong learning by guaranteeing a challenging curriculum facilitated by an innovative and dedicated staff, community participation and state-of-the-art resources in a stimulating atmosphere.



**Superintendent
Kevin A. Bell**

**Board of Education
Deborah Daniel
Elizabeth Engelhardt
Adrienne Heard
Vanessa Jeter-Freeman
Denise Moore**

**Trotwood-Madison City Schools
3594 N. Snyder Rd.
Trotwood, Ohio 45426**



**Attendance Contacts
854-3050**

**High School Ext. 2036 or 2024
Middle School Ext. 3001
Westbrooke Village Ext. 6001
Madison Park Ext. 5001
Early Learning Cntr. Ext. 4001**

House Bill 410 Restructures Attendance

With the passing of House Bill 410, attendance will be looked at differently. Instead of counting days absent, the Bill will count hours and minutes absent. One school day will be considered six hours. This will affect the way a student's tardiness and absences are noted in the system.

What's Considered Truant?

- ◆ If a student misses 38 or more hours in one month or 65 or more hours in a school year, regardless of whether these absences are excused or unexcused, the parent/guardian must be notified.
- ◆ 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 O.R.C. 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 O.R.C. 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 an investigation into whether such failure triggers our mandatory duty to report child abuse or neglect to the Montgomery County Children Services.
- ◆ Ohio Law requires a complaint to be filed with the Montgomery County Juvenile Courts if the student fails to make satisfactory progress during the intervention plan.

Excused Absence

- ◆ 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 10:00 am to report the child's absence.
- ◆ 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.
- ◆ 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.