

HB 410 Fact Sheet: **Community-Based Organizations, Local Agencies, and School Support Staff**

In December 2016, the Ohio General Assembly passed HB 410, which works to reduce the number of students referred for formal juvenile court processing for missing school. HB 410 goes into effect for the 2017-2018 school year.

This fact sheet is designed specifically for individuals who work to support youth and families and are either based in schools or in communities, but who are not school administrators tasked with the technical implementation of HB 410. Additional fact sheets are available on how HB 410 impacts [juvenile courts](#) and schools (as of [April 2017](#) and [July 2017](#)) as well as an [overview](#) of the bill.

How Does HB 410 Work?: HB 410 creates a new process for schools to reengage students who have certain number of unexcused absences. In most districts, this process includes 1) notifying the student's parents or guardians, 2) utilizing intervention strategies listed in the school's absence policy, 3) assigning the student to an absence intervention team (AIT) that must include the student, an administrator, and a school employee who knows the student. The school must work with the student for 60 days before referring the student to the juvenile court. In addition, students cannot be suspended or expelled for missing school.

How Does HB 410 Relate to My Work?: While HB 410 specifically impacts students and education stakeholders, the bill is based on the premise that schools, caring adults, and community organizations – such as medical, mental health and substance abuse, child welfare, and developmental disability agencies, providers, or local non-profits and organizers – can intervene with students in a holistic, collaborative way that addresses students' underlying reasons for absence issues that may not require court intervention.

The interventions under HB 410 should be tailored to providing individual students with the support they need to address barriers to attendance and get reengaged in school. Community-based organizations and school-based support staff can play a critical role by providing assistance or services directly or by linking youth to other organizations in your network. Depending on the students' identified needs, your organization could help by:

- Helping to advocate for the student and family during the absence intervention team meetings.
- Linking a youth to mental health or substance abuse counseling.
- Working to resolve family conflict.
- Identifying transportation options.
- Addressing the family's childcare, food, or employment needs.
- Referring a student or family to grief counseling after the death of a friend or loved one.
- Helping the student access physical needs, such as getting access to laundry.
- Connecting a student with a primary care physician and addressing health concerns.

How Could My Organization Fit into the HB 410 Structure?: To become engaged with students under HB 410, the best way is to connect with the district school directly. HB 410 requires each board of education or governing board to develop a new policy to address and ameliorate student absences at the beginning of the 2017-2018 school year. Organizations could work with these entities to help draft the new policy or request to see the policy.

In addition, although certain individuals are listed as mandatory participants on the AIT, there are no restriction as to who can participate as long as all participants agree to confidentiality. The AIT can either be formed at the district or school level and have a person responsible for selecting AIT members: for district level AITs - the district superintendent or their designee and for school-level AITs - the school principal or chief administrator. Organizations could meet with the individuals responsible for selecting AIT members and indicate the services and supports your organization can provide. In addition, organizations could be invited to attend by the student or their family.