



## A Message from the Desk of

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### School Attendance Law Tightened Up

**The WV School Attendance Law has tightened** considerably for the upcoming school year. All Clay County parents, guardians, and students need to be aware of the changes.

Clay County Principals and school officials are legally required to enforce the new attendance law, but will do so with respect and fairness to parents and students.

In past years, students could not miss 5 consecutive, or 10 total unexcused days. **This year, however, WV State Law defines students as "truant" when they miss a total of 5 unexcused days.**

#### Two important things to remember . . .

1. Only unexcused absences make a child truant. **Excused absences do not do not count** against the student.

2. **There is no reason a child should ever miss 5 unexcused days.** Absences due to doctor appointments, sickness, legal proceedings, funerals, etc. are easily excusable by providing the proper documentation.

This year, the parents of a student who misses a total of 5 unexcused days during the school year will receive written notification of the truancy. Parents must then come to the school so the problem can be corrected and additional absences prevented in order to avoid legal proceedings.

Please encourage your child to attend school faithfully this year. Thank you for your time and support.

I WILL NOT MISS SCHOOL.  
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I WILL NOT

10 days  
- 5 days  
= 5 days

**SCHOOL ATTENDANCE  
WV CODE 18-8-4**