



*Dr. Jarrod Burns, Superintendent*  
2020 N. Montgomery Rd, Greensburg, In 47240  
812-663-4595

Attention all parents and guardians:

September 12, 2025

DCCS Attendance policy:

To meet the new state requirements concerning student attendance, Decatur County Community Schools has updated and made a few changes to our current attendance policy and practices.

Starting this year:

- When a student reaches **five absences**, the school will have a phone conversation, a face-to-face or virtual meeting with the parents/guardians. Students who reach **five unexcused** absences will be placed on an attendance contract by the school.
- When a student reaches **seven unexcused** absences, the school administrators will have a face-to-face meeting with parents/guardians and juvenile probation.
- When a student reaches **ten unexcused** absences, the school will arrange a meeting with parents/guardians, the juvenile prosecutor, and administrators.

**Guidance from the Indiana Department of Education:**

**Clarification on Senate Enrolled Act (SEA) 482**

Recently we have had an increased number of school leaders, parents, and other stakeholders reach out for clarity on the implications of SEA 482, a new law passed in 2025 regarding school attendance.

The primary change as a result of SEA 482 is that **schools** will now report additional data regarding the type of *excused* absence. Many schools already collect this data, which allows schools, educators, parents/families to work together to support the student, as well as triage attendance challenges, as needed.

There is *not* an impact on **students or families**, as SEA 482 does not change who decides what counts as an excused or unexcused absence. Local school boards and district policies still make those decisions. An excused absence could include, but is not limited to, illness verified by communication from parent/guardian, illness verified by communication from a healthcare provider, a family funeral, absences related to deployment and return for military-connected families, etc. There are no penalties for excused absences in Indiana law. State law only requires intervention after 10 or more unexcused absences. Any decision beyond this is determined locally.

---

*Director of Learning: Angel Hocker \* Business Manager: Melissa Leap*  
*Director of Special Education/School Psychologist: Dr. Jason Holland*  
*Director of Operations: Brian Talkington \* Director of Grounds/Maintenance: Brian Land*