

# UNIONTOWN AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

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District Website: [www.uasdraiders.org](http://www.uasdraiders.org)

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Superintendent  
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Mr. Daniel Bosnic  
Asst. to Supt./Transportation  
Ext. 1606 or 1642

Robert D. Smalley  
Director of Buildings and Grounds  
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Sally E. Matthews  
Asst. Business Mgr./Federal Programs  
Ext. 1643

Miss Judith J. Means  
Board Secretary  
Ext. 1606

Donald M. Gmitter  
School Police/Truancy Officer  
Ext. 1590

Dear Parent/Guardian:

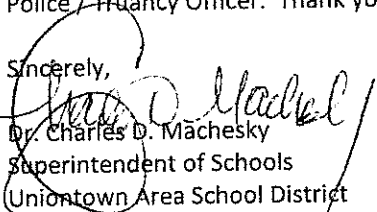
Effective Thursday, November 4, 2016, Governor Tom Wolfe signed the new Truancy Legislation under House Bill 1907 into law. House Bill 1907, now referred to as Act 138 of 2016, rewrites a substantial portion of the Public School Code, specifically the provisions that address truancy. Act 138 of 2016 added definitions and authorizes and directs school districts to do the following:

1. Define a "Truant" student as having incurred **three (3)** unexcused absences during the current school year.
2. Define a "Habitually Truant" student as having incurred **six (6)** unexcused absences during the current school year.
3. Provide a proactive approach by offering "school attendance improvement conferences" for any student who reaches **three (3)** unexcused absences within a school year and thus attempting to identify the cause(s) of the student's absences with the parents/guardians.
4. Mandate that the school districts schedule a face-to-face meeting or phone conference with the student and person in parental relation to discuss the child's absences before a citation is filed with the district magistrate so the district may develop a written school Truancy Elimination Plan (TEP).
5. Provide schools with the discretion to refer children to a school or community based program, (Example: Crime Victims Center, Connections to Classroom, Justice Youth Program, etc.)
6. Make referrals to Children and Youth Services (CYS), and/or file citations within the District Magistrate depending on the age of the child.
7. Amend the financial penalties for the truancy proceedings in an amount not exceeding **\$300** together with court costs, **\$500** together with court costs for a second violation, and **\$750** together with court costs for a third and subsequent violations.
8. Enable the courts to suspend sentences for truancy convictions and waive fines, if the child is attending school in compliance with the court's plan.
9. Clarify that fines, community service, and attendance at a course or program designed to improve school attendance **shall** be the first penalty imposed for a violation of the compulsory attendance law.
10. Permit a child with a summary offense conviction for violations of the compulsory school attendance requirements to have their record expunged and have their driver's license restored if they meet specific requirements.

**Act 138 of 2016 creates a comprehensive approach to dealing with truancy by involving the child, the parental relation, school districts, court officials and others agencies. We anticipate this approach will increase our attendance rate, and will increase the number of students who graduate to help us remain "Committed to Educational Excellence."**

If you have any further questions regarding the new truancy law changes, please feel free to contact Donald M. Gmitter, Chief of Police / Truancy Officer. Thank you for your cooperation and support in this very important matter.

Sincerely,

  
Dr. Charles D. Machesky  
Superintendent of Schools  
Uniontown Area School District