

School absence notification measure signed into law

Outgoing Gov. John Kasich signed legislation (H.B. 66), which included an amendment from a bill known as “Alianna’s Alert” passed by the Ohio Senate April of last year.

In response to stakeholder concerns, changes were made to the measure named for Alianna DeFreeze, a 14-year-old Cleveland girl who failed to report to school and was tragically found dead days later in an abandoned house. Her parents were not made aware of Alianna’s absence from school until after the school day had ended.

Under the provisions of H.B. 66, schools will be required to make at least one attempt to contact parents within two hours – rather than one hour, as originally proposed -- of the beginning of the school day when students are absent without excuse. It allows for notification by automated phone calls and text-based communication systems.

