



## **Ohio Virtual Academy Statement Responding to False Allegations Regarding its Attendance Policy**

**May 4, 2015**

Ohio Virtual Academy (OHVA) takes our compliance responsibilities seriously. We have an exemplary record of compliance with all state and federal regulations, including multiple audits with no significant findings. Our public school strictly adheres to Ohio's education code and follows all state-mandated attendance and truancy policies. The allegation that OHVA is violating state attendance policy is totally and categorically false.

OHVA closely monitors and accurately reports attendance. We identify students who are frequently absent and intervene to help them get back on track. Long term, excused absences may be due to medical issues, family circumstances, or other reasons. However, in accordance with Ohio education code, chronically truant students *with no legitimate excuse* who fail to participate in 105 consecutive hours of learning are removed from the school's roster. OHVA reports students who have been removed and does not receive funding for those students.

Access to OHVA's student information is restricted and protected. After learning that student information was wrongfully obtained and distributed by an anonymous source, we immediately contacted our authorizer, Ohio Council of Community Schools, and invited them and the Ohio Department of Education to conduct a full review. We are fully cooperating and welcome the findings.