

STUDENT ATTENDANCE REQUIREMENTS AND EXPECTATIONS: 3121

Parents of any child eight (8) years of age and under eighteen (18) years of age shall cause such child to attend school and such child shall have the responsibility to and therefore shall attend for the full time when such school may be in session unless the child is enrolled in an approved private school, an educational center as provided in chapter 28A.205 RCW or is receiving home-based instruction. Parents of any child six (6) or seven (7) years old, who have enrolled the child in school, shall cause the child to attend school for the full time when such school may be in session, unless the child is formally withdrawn from enrollment by the parents.

Exception may be granted by the Superintendent/designee in the following circumstances:

- A. The student is physically or mentally unable to attend school;
- B. The student is attending a residential school operated by the Department of Social and Health Services;
- C. The student's parents have requested a temporary absence for purposes agreed to by the District and which will not cause a serious adverse effect on the student's educational process;
- D. The student is sixteen (16) years of age, regularly and lawfully employed and either has parent permission or is emancipated pursuant to chapter 13.64 RCW;
- E. The student has met graduation requirements;
- F. The student has received a certificate of educational competence (GED).

Any law enforcement officer authorized to make arrests can take a truant child into custody without a warrant and must then deliver the child to the parent or to the school.

In addition to legal attendance requirements for students of certain ages, the District believes that regular school attendance has a direct effect on the academic progress of all students and on the development of good habits which will aid students as they move into the world beyond the district. The District stresses that regular and consistent attendance results from the partnership between the District, school, parent/guardian and students - each with equal levels of responsibility.

Students are responsible for:

- 1. arriving at each class on time and prepared to learn;
- 2. communicating problems which may be affecting attendance and cooperating with intervention strategies; and
- 3. following the policies and procedures of the district and their school with regard to attendance.

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Parents/guardians are responsible for:

1. causing their children of compulsory school attendance age to attend school on time and prepared to learn in compliance with State law;
2. communicating problems which may be affecting attendance and cooperating with intervention strategies;
3. educating students on the importance of regular attendance;
4. communicating with the school to verify excused absences and pre-arranged absences; and
5. supporting discipline imposed by the school for unexcused absences.

The school is responsible for:

1. informing parents/guardians and students of State law and District policy regarding school attendance;
2. educating students on the importance of regular attendance;
3. monitoring student attendance and maintaining accurate records of such attendance;
4. notifying parents/guardians of unexcused absences and the consequences of future unexcused absences;
5. scheduling conferences to analyze the causes for student absences and proposing and/or implementing interventions designed to reduce such absences;
6. imposing discipline as a consequence of non-attendance; and
7. communicating and cooperating with the District in seeking court intervention as required by law to address unexcused absences.

The District shall be responsible for:

1. informing parents/guardians, students and schools of State law and District policy regarding school attendance;
2. establishing standards for school attendance and procedures for enforcing such standards;
3. assisting schools in providing due process for students subject to discipline imposed as a result of non-attendance;
4. assisting schools in seeking court intervention as required by law to address unexcused absences;
5. monitoring school compliance with State law and District policy; and
6. reviewing District policy and procedures regularly.

Developing lifelong habits of promptness and reliability shall be included in the development of classroom management procedures and student expectations for each class offered by the District.

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The Superintendent/designee shall develop procedures which implement State law and regulations and promote the regular attendance of all students.

Cross References: Administrative Policy – 3114 Part-time Students
Administrative Policy – 3122 Excused and Unexcused Absences

Legal References: RCW 28A.225 Compulsory school attendance and admission
28A.225.010 Attendance mandatory–Age–Exceptions
28A.225.080 Employment permits
28A.225.090 Court orders–Penalties–Parents’ defense

WAC 180-51-020 Additional local standards
392-400-235 Discipline–Conditions and limitations

AGO 1980 No. 6 Truancy–Enforcement of compulsory attendance law