STUDENTS

Tardiness, Absence and Truancy

Regular school attendance is necessary for mastery of the educational program provided to students of the district. Students at times may appropriately be absent from class. The following principles shall govern the development and administration of attendance procedures with the intention of building and sustaining a culture of achievement within all grades and academic programs across the district:

A. Students are expected to be in class on time. When a student's tardiness becomes frequent or disruptive, such behavior will be addressed by school staff and administration through building attendance procedures.

B. Excused and unexcused absences, defined in procedures No. 3122P, shall be consistent with state law and OSPI regulations.

C. If an absence is excused, the student shall be permitted to make up all missed assignments outside of class under reasonable conditions and time limits established by the appropriate teacher, except that in participation-type classes a student's grade may be affected because of the student's inability to make up the activities conducted during a class period.

D. An excused absence shall be verified by the parent; adult/emancipated student; or principal/designee.

E. As a means of instilling values of responsibility and personal accountability, a student whose tardiness or absence is unexcused shall experience the natural consequences of his/her tardiness or unexcused absence. A student's grade may be affected if a graded activity, participation requirement, or assignment occurs during the period of time when the student is unexcused or tardy.

F. If a student is to be released for health care related to family planning or abortion, the student may require that the district keep the information confidential. Students 13 years of age and older have the right to keep information about drug, alcohol or mental health treatment confidential. Students 14 and older have the same confidentiality rights regarding HIV and sexually-transmitted diseases.

G. Truancy will not be addressed as a form of exceptional misconduct. Procedures for truancy will be implemented in accordance with Board Policy 3120, Compulsory Attendance, and Procedure 3120P.

Students dependent pursuant to Chapter 13.34, RCW

A school district representative or certificated staff member will review unexpected or excessive absences of a student who has been found dependent under the Juvenile Court Act with that student and adults involved with that student. Adults includes the student’s caseworker, educational liaison, attorney if one is appointed, parent or guardians, foster parents and/or the person providing placement for the student. The review will take into consideration the cause of the absences, unplanned school transitions, periods of running from care, in-patient treatment, incarceration, school adjustment, educational gaps, psychosocial issues, and the student’s unavoidable appointments that occur during the school day. The representative or staff member must proactively support the student’s management of their school work.

The Superintendent or his designee shall enforce the district's attendance policies and procedures. Because the full knowledge and cooperation of students and parents are necessary for the success of the policies and procedures, they shall be disseminated broadly and made available to parents and students annually.
Cross References:
- Board Policy 2342: Religious Holidays and Observances
- Board Policy 2420: Grading and Progress Reports
- Board Policy 3120: Compulsory Attendance
- Board Policy 3230: Student Privacy
- Board Policy 3320: Suspensions and Expulsions

Legal References:
- RCW 13.34.300: Failure to cause juvenile to attend school as evidence under neglect petition
- RCW 28A.225: Compulsory School Attendance
- WAC 180-16-215(4): Minimum 180 school day – 5-day flexibility – Students graduating from high school
- WAC 392-400-235: Discipline – Conditions and limitations
- WAC 392-400-260: Long-term suspension – Conditions and limitations

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