STUDENTS

Compulsory Attendance

Parents are responsible for seeing that their children of age eight and less than age eighteen attend public school, unless the child attends a private school for the same time or unless other enumerated exceptions are present. The district superintendent may at his or her discretion, agree to excuse children between the ages of eight and eighteen if:

1. The child is physically or mentally unable to attend school;
2. The child is receiving home-based instruction, attending an approved private school, or a residential school operated by the Department of Social and Health Services, or is attending an educational center as provided in Chapter 28A.205 RCW;
3. The child's parents have requested that the child be temporarily excused.

Similarly, the district superintendent may excuse children between sixteen and eighteen if he or she determines that:

1. The child has become regularly and lawfully employed, and either the parent agrees that the child should not be required to attend school or the child has been emancipated in accordance with Chapter 13.64 RCW; or
2. The child has already met graduation requirements; or
3. The child has received a certificate of educational competence.

Any parent violating this requirement will be reported according to procedures 3120P and can be fined not more than twenty-five dollars for each day of unexcused absence from school, unless the parent charged can show the exercise of reasonable diligence in attempting to get the juvenile to attend school, or that the school district failed to discharge its statutory responsibilities.

The district superintendent shall develop procedures for enforcing the state compulsory attendance law. The board of directors will annually appoint one or more attendance officers in order to enforce the district's compulsory attendance procedures.

Cross References: Board Policy No. 3114 Part-time, Home-based, or Off campus Students
3122 Excused and Unexcused Absences

Legal References: AGO 1980 No. 6 Truancy—Enforcement of compulsory attendance law
RCW 28A.225.010 Attendance mandatory—Age—Persons having custody shall cause child to attend public school—When excused
28A.225.080 Employment Permits
28A.225.090 Penalties in general—Defense—Suspension of fine—Complaints to Court
WAC 180-51-020 Additional local standards

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