

EXCUSED AND UNEXCUSED ABSENCE~~Excused and Unexcused Absences~~

Students are expected to attend all assigned classes each day. Teachers will keep a record of absence and tardiness.

Excused Absences

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~~will govern the development and administration of attendance procedures within the district:

A. ~~Absences due to illness or a health condition; a religious observance, when requested by a student's parent(s); school approved activities; family emergencies; and, as required by law, disciplinary actions or short term suspensions shall be excused. The principal may, upon request by a parent, grant permission in advance for a student's absence providing such absence does not adversely affect the student's educational progress. A student, upon the request of a parent, may be excused for a portion of a school day to participate in religious instruction provided such is not conducted on school property, or involves the school to any degree.~~

A. The Following are valid excuses for absences:

1. Participation in a district or school approved activity or instructional program;
2. Illness, health condition or medical appointment (including but not limited to medical, counseling, dental or optometry);
3. Family emergency, including but not limited to a death or illness in the family;
4. Religious or cultural purpose including observance of a religious or cultural holiday or participation in religious or cultural instruction;
5. Court, judicial proceeding or serving on a jury;
6. Post-secondary, technical school or apprenticeship program visitation, or scholarship interview;
7. State-recognized search and rescue activities consistent with RCW 28A.225.055;
8. Absence directly related to the student's homeless status;
9. Absence resulting from a disciplinary/corrective action. (e.g., short-term or long-term suspension, emergency expulsion); and
10. Principal (or designee) and parent, guardian, or emancipated youth mutually agreed upon approved activity.

The school principal (or designee) has the authority to determine if an absence meets the above criteria for an excused absence.

- B. If an absence is excused, the student ~~shall~~will 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.
- C. An excused absence ~~shall~~will be verified by ~~the a parent or/ guardian, or an adult, or emancipated~~ or appropriately aged student, ~~;~~ or school authority responsible for the

absence. If attendance is taken electronically, either for a course conducted online or for students physically within the district, an absence will default to unexcused until such time as an excused absence may be verified by a parent or other responsible adult. 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 thirteen and older have the right to keep information about drug, alcohol or mental health treatment confidential. Students fourteen and older have the same confidentiality rights regarding HIV and sexually transmitted diseases.

Unexcused Absences

DA. Any absence from school fro the majority of hours or periods in an average school day is unexcused unless it meets one of the criteria above for an excused absence.

B. As a means of instilling values of responsibility and personal accountability, a student whose absence is not excused shall-will experience the consequences of his/her absence. A student's grade shall-will be affected if a graded activity or assignment occurs during the period of time when the student is absent.

EC. The school shall-will notify a student's parent or guardian in writing or by telephone whenever the student has failed to attend school after one unexcused absence within any month during the current school year. The notification shall-will include the potential consequences of additional unexcused absences.

D. A conference with the parent or guardian shall-will be held after two unexcused absences within any month during the current school year. A student may be suspended or expelled for habitual truancy. Prior to suspension or expulsion, the parent shall-will be notified in writing in his/her primary language that the student has unexcused absences. A conference shall-will be scheduled to determine what corrective measures should be taken to improve the situationameliorate the cause for the student's absence from school. If the parent does not attend the conference, the parent shall-will be notified of the steps the district has decided to take to reduce the student's absences.

E. Not later than the student's fifth unexcused absence in a month the district shall-will enter into an agreement with the student and parents that establishes school attendance requirements, refer the student to a community truancy board or file a petition and affidavit with the juvenile court alleging a violation of RCW 28A.225.010.

F. If such action is not successful, the district shall-will file a petition and affidavit with the juvenile court alleging a violation of RCW 28A.225.010 by the parent, student or parent and student no later than the seventh unexcused absence within any month during the current school year or upon the tenth unexcused absence during the current school year.

FG. All suspensions and/or expulsions shall-will be reported in writing to the superintendent within 24 hours after imposition.

The superintendent 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, procedures shall be disseminated broadly and made available to parents and students annually.

	3241	Classroom Management, Corrective Actions or Punishment
Legal References:	RCW <u>13.34.300</u>	Relevance of f Failure to cause juvenile to attend school as evidence under to neglect petition
	28A.225	Compulsory School Attendance <u>and admission</u>
	WAC 180-16-215 (4)	Minimum 180 one-hundred eighty school day year Five-day
	180-400-235	flexibility Students graduating from high school
	180-400-260	Discipline--Conditions and limitations Long-term suspension--Conditions and limitations

Management Resources:

<i>Policy News, December 2011</i>	<i>Revision of Excused/Unexcused Definitions</i>
<i>OSPI Memorandum No. 052-11M</i>	<i>Unexcused Absence Definition</i>
<i>Policy News, June 2001</i>	<i>More Tweaking of Becca Petitions</i>

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Woodland School District #404