

DID YOU KNOW?

- By third grade, chronically absent students, especially those who have experienced multiple years of poor attendance, are less likely to read on grade level.
- While what happens in school matters, school attendance is deeply affected by family circumstances. Young children depend upon their primary caregivers to ensure they arrive at school every day.
- Students are at risk academically if they miss 10 percent of the school year, or about 18 days. Once too many absences have occurred, absences can affect learning, regardless of whether absences are excused or unexcused.

SCHOOL'S OBLIGATIONS UNDER THE LAW:

Fifth (5) excused absences in a month OR ten (10) excused absences in the current school year – Schedule a family conference, convene 504/IEP and/or MKV team if applicable.

First (1) unexcused absence– Inform parent/Guardian in home language.

Third (3) unexcused absences - Schedule a meeting/conference with the parent/legal guardian and student. Convene 504/IEP/MKV if applicable.

Between the second (2) and seventh (7) unexcused absence– the school is required to take data informed steps to address barriers to attendance.

Seventh (7) unexcused absences within 30 days– School must either enter into a written agreement with the family, refer to District Attendance Office, or file a truancy petition in juvenile court.

Fifteen (15) unexcused absences in a school year – School must enter into a written agreement, if not done so yet. District Attendance Office will file Truancy Petition.

Questions

If you have questions, or want more information:

District Attendance Contact Information:
(206) 252-0827 / attendance@seattleschools.org

Juvenile Court

BECCA Court Program Coordinator:
206-477-2746

Bobbe J Bridge Resource Center

SCResourceCenter@kingcounty.gov
206-263-8634



1 in 6 students who fail to read proficiently by 3rd grade fail to graduate from high school.



A Parent's Guide to the Becca Bill

Why Early Education is Important

Elementary Edition



The Becca Bill

(RCW 28A.225- Washington State Compulsory School Attendance and Admission Law)

All children/youth in Washington State have a right to an education. All children/ youth are also legally required to attend school.

Washington’s truancy law is often also referred to as the “Becca Bill”. It is intended to reengage the student and to stop truancy before it becomes a problem. Schools and families should work together as a team to ensure school attendance and student safety.

School attendance is **required** by law for all children **ages 8-17** unless the child is:

- 1) Receiving home-based instruction or enrolled in private school
- 2) Attending a certified education center devoted to teaching basic academic skills, or
- 3) Excused by the school superintendent because they are physically or mentally unable to attend school.

The law also applies to children **ages 6 and 7** if enrolled in a public school.

Truancy laws exist in order to make sure that no child falls through the cracks and that the proper accommodations and interventions are in place to address the barriers to regular school attendance.

School districts around the state have different rules and regulations about student attendance and how parents should excuse absences. Be sure to read the attendance policies in your school district and discuss them with your student.

Seattle Public Schools Approach

In partnership with King County Superior Court, Seattle Public Schools is working with the BECCA Court Program Coordinator in order to take a preemptive and restorative approach to help keep young people engaged in their education while addressing the barriers to attendance in a holistic way.

Seattle Public Schools is committed to eliminating opportunity gaps to ensure access and provide excellence in education for every student, by increasing regular attendance practices.



Resources

Step Up (Building Respectful family Relationships): (206) 477-2071 | Children and Family Justice Center | 1211 E. Alder St. Seattle, WA 98122

The Bobbe J Bridge Resource Center – Heather Patrick | (206) 263-8634 | hpatrick@kingcounty.gov

Parent Support Group – Heather Patrick | Virtual Support Group | (206) 263-8634

Friends of Youth- Family Services, Housing, Vocational Support & More (206) 859-6290

Mental Health: Nexus, Valley Cities, Youth East Side Services, Sound Mental Health, Conejos, Asian Counseling Services, Navos, Renton Youth and Family, Therapeutic Health Services, Hopelink.

LGBTQ Supports: Seattle Counseling Services, Northwest Network, Youth Care, PFLAG, GLOBE, Lambert House.

Housing Resources: Treehouse, Cocoon House, Youth Care, Hopelink,

Children’s Crisis Outreach Response- 206-461- 3222

Unleash The Brilliance – Inspire, Connect, Empower, Educate. Terrel Dorsey | (253) 441-6276 | www.utbteens.weebly.com

SPS McKinney Vento: <https://www.seattleschools.org/departments/homeless-program/> 206-252-0660

SPS Special Education Support: <https://www.seattleschools.org/departments/special-education/>