

Student Attendance; Absences, Tardiness and Excuses

The Edmonds School District shall implement state laws as prescribed by the Compulsory School Attendance Law of the State of Washington and all applicable regulations.

District procedures and regulations shall guide the management of student attendance and govern the imposition of corrective action upon any student for attendance infractions. Upon enrollment and at the beginning of each school year, the district shall inform students and their parents/guardians of school attendance policies.

Ultimately, the students and their parents have the responsibility for establishing and maintaining prompt and regular attendance as prescribed in the Compulsory Attendance Law of the State of Washington.

Philosophy

It is the policy of the district that on-time daily attendance is essential to the academic achievement of each and every student. Students with poor attendance miss critical instruction in key concepts, quickly fall behind in school, and are less likely to achieve academic success. Accordingly, school attendance is mandatory, and unexcused absences and truancy are prohibited within the district.

Attendance policies apply to all students enrolled in the district, including district sponsored preschool programs through high school. Students with poor attendance in kindergarten and first grade are much less likely to meet critical math and reading benchmarks by the third grade. Third grade benchmarks are closely linked with future academic success and high school graduation rates.

To combat unexcused absences and truancy, all schools are committed to strengthening family engagement to support all aspects of their child's life, including the reduction of truancy.

The district believes that school-based interventions allow schools to tailor interventions to specific student needs, and build capacity for families to become directly involved in their child's school life. Centrally-based interventions act as an important supplement to school-based interventions when all school-based efforts to meet a student's needs have been exhausted. Generally, judicial action will be the final intervention utilized.

The superintendent or his or her designee is granted the authority to develop procedures in order to implement this policy.

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Edmonds School District

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