

Excused and Unexcused Absences

Students are expected to attend all assigned classes each day. School staff will keep a record of absence and tardiness, including a call log and/or a record of excuse statements submitted by a parent/guardian, or in certain cases, students, to document a student's excused absences.

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

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, court-ordered activity 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 or foster care/dependency status;
9. Absence resulting from a disciplinary/corrective action. (e.g., short-term or long-term suspension, emergency expulsion) if the student is not receiving educational services and is not enrolled in a qualifying "course of study" activities as defined in WAC 392-121-107
10. Absences due to student safety concerns, including absences related to threats, assaults or bullying
11. Absences due to a student's migrant status; and
12. 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 will be permitted to make up all missed assignments outside of class under reasonable conditions and time limits established by the appropriate teacher.

Legal References:	RCW 13.34.300	Relevance of failure to cause juvenile to attend school to neglect petition
	RCW 28A.225	Compulsory school attendance and admission
	WAC 392-400-235	Discipline — Conditions and limitations
	WAC 392-400-260	Long-term suspension — Conditions and limitations
	WAC 392-401-015	Definition of absent or absence
	WAC 392-401-020	Excused absences
	WAC 392-401-030	Unexcused absences

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Bellevue School District
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