



Columbia School District No. 206

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INFORMATION REGARDING ABSENCES FOR JR. HIGH/HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS

What constitutes an "Excused" absence?

A note from

- Doctor
- Dentist
- Orthodontist
- Physical therapist
- Counselor

What is considered an "Unexcused" absence?

Absent for the following reasons: (even with a parent phone call or note)

- Hunting
- Family vacations
- shopping
- State tournament
- Missing the bus
- Sleeping in
- Arriving to school late (student drivers)

See the attached page copied from the Columbia Jr. High/High School handbook for more detailed information regarding lost credits, make-up work, tardies, and disciplinary absences

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Mr. Matt McLain, Principal or Mrs. Loretta Dashiell, Attendance Secretary at 722-3311.

"To educate and prepare all students for life-long success"

Excused Absences

After a student has accumulated 12 absences, (excused and unexcused) per class, for the semester, the student may receive an "F" (no credit) in each class this occurs. Receiving special permission from the administration, in advance, will be an exception. Exceptions that may be used are uncontrollable circumstances such as prolonged illness (hospital and/or home), pregnancy, and family emergencies.

Parents will be notified of their child's unexcused absences pursuant to RCW 28A.225: Parents will be notified of their child's excused absences when a student has accumulated a total of 5 absences, and again when a student has accumulated a total of 10 absences (excused and unexcused). After five unexcused absences a conference with the parent/guardian and student will be scheduled and an attendance plan will be put in place pursuant to State Law.

When a student receives a "no credit" grade, the parent will receive notification. Parents may appeal to the Superintendent within five (5) days of a ruling in which their child has been ruled to receive "no credit" due to absenteeism in applicable classes. The decision of the Superintendent will be final.

Students may be able to retrieve lost credits by attending summer school. Students will have the opportunity to make up classes through credit recovery and/or summer school options. Upon official notice of completion of summer school, passing grades lost, because of attendance, may be reinstated.

Note: Summer school availability is subject to available funds. Students should make every effort fulfill attendance requirements.

Students with an excused absence from school will be allowed one day for each day absent to make up work. It will be the student's responsibility to obtain and complete the make-up work. Students are encouraged to use pre-excused absences when they know ahead of time they will be absent.

Unexcused Absences

Anytime a student misses school without a parent's knowledge and permission, the student's absence is "unexcused" and the student is considered Truant. When a student returns to school after an absence, a written excuse must be presented within two school days) or the student is "unexcused".

Other absences that are unexcused include: hunting, family vacations, shopping, state tournament, missing the bus, and sleeping in. The above absences could be pre-excused if the students' grades and attendance are in good standing.

The "Becca Bill" gives parents, police, schools, and courts a specific process to intervene earlier in the lives of students with attendance problems. As the student accumulates unexcused absences the following actions are followed as mandated by RCW28A.225.020 and RCW28A.225.030.

Step 1: One day unexcused: parental notification by letter, phone, or email.

Step 2: After five cumulative unexcused absences: a conference with the parent, student, and administrator will be scheduled. District may file a petition with Stevens County Juvenile Court and the matter then may be remanded to a district community truancy board.

Step 3: After Seven Unexcused absences in a month or ten unexcused absences in a school year, the case may be petitioned to the Stevens County Juvenile court as required by state law, depending on the age of the student involved.

This petition process allows courts to assume jurisdiction in truancy cases. Students found in violation of a court order can be ordered to attend: 1) their school, or 2) another educational program or school. If the student does not obey the order, the judge may send the student to a detention center or to community service. The judge may also order parents to pay a fine for each day the student fails to attend school.

Teachers may exercise their right to not accept work as a result of an unexcused absence, and the student may receive a zero on the assignment at the discretion of the teacher.

Absence Resulting From Disciplinary Actions

As required by law, a student who is removed from a class or classes as a disciplinary measure or a student who has been placed on a short-term suspension shall have the right to make up assignments or exams missed during the time he/she was denied entry to the classroom if the effect of the missed assignments shall result in a substantial lowering of the course grade.

Tardy

A tardy is when a student is not in their seat, ready to begin class by the time the tardy bell rings. If the tardy is caused by another teacher, the student is encouraged to get an excuse from that teacher. Students who are tardy will receive one day of lunch detention. Students who are habitually tardy may have progressive discipline initiated. When a student is tardy 15 minutes or more, the student will be considered absent (truant).