

Students are missed when they are absent. Regular attendance ensures that children benefit from participating in quality education.

What you can do to help:

- Schedule non-urgent appointments to occur after school.
- Only let your student stay home if they are truly sick.
- Develop a back-up plan for getting to school if something comes up.
- Talk to your student about the importance of attendance.
- Talk to your student’s teachers if you notice sudden changes in behavior. These could be a sign of something going on at school.
- If you have a change of address or phone number, please update with your child’s school.
- If your student is going to be absent, please contact your school’s attendance office. The attendance voicemail system is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week. If prior notice is not possible, you may call, send an e-mail, or a written note upon the student’s return to school.
 - ◊ Information to include:
 - ⇒ Name of student
 - ⇒ Name and contact information of the person providing the excuse and his/her relationship to the student.
 - ◊ Date(s) of absence
 - ◊ Reason for absence



MAKE SURE YOUR CHILD IS IN SCHOOL EVERY DAY.

Schools:

Aylen Junior High	253-841-8723
Ballou Junior High	253-841-8725
Edgemont Junior High	253-841-8727
Ferrucci Junior High	253-841-8756
Glacier View Junior High	253-840-8922
Kalles Junior High	253-841-8729
Stahl Junior High	253-840-8881
Emerald Ridge High School	253-435-6300
Puyallup High School	253-841-8711
Rogers High School	253-841-8717
Walker High School	253-841-8781
Puyallup Digital Learning	253-841-8630
Summit @ Sparks	253-435-2672

We are here to help you. If you are in need of assistance, please contact your child’s school or the Equity and Education Department.

Equity and Education
 Richard Lasso, Executive Director -
 Secondary Vincent Pecchia, Ed.D, Asst.
 Superintendent Equity and
 Instructional Leadership
 253-435-6515



PUYALLUP
 SCHOOL DISTRICT
A Tradition of Excellence

Secondary Attendance 2021-2022

Daily attendance is one of the most powerful indicators of a student's success in school and staying on track for an on-time graduation.

Our goal is to have every student - present at school, on-time every day, engaged and supported!



ATTENDANCE MATTERS!
Everyday. On-time.

Did You Know?

- Starting in kindergarten, too many absences (excused and unexcused) can cause children to fall behind in school.
- Missing 10% of the school year is considered chronically absent. That's only 2 days a month!
- Being late to school may lead to poor attendance.
- Setting a regular bedtime and morning routines can reduce tardies and absences.
- By 6th grade, absenteeism is one of three signs that a student may drop out of high school.
- Absences can be a sign that a student is losing interest in school, struggling with school work, dealing with a bully or facing some other potentially serious difficulty.

State Law and Attendance Policies

The Becca Bill requires that children from age 8 to 17 attend a public school, private school, or a district-approved home school program. Children who are 6- or 7-years-old are not required to be enrolled in school.

However, if parents do enroll their 6- or 7-year-old, the student must attend full-time.

Youth who are 16 or older may be excused from attending public school if they meet certain requirements.



When Student Absences are unexcused

- Contact the school to excuse the absence(s).
- If the absence meets one of the criteria in the WAC 392.401A-020, the absence will be excused.
- The school principal (or designee) does have the authority to determine if an absence meets the criteria for an excused absence.
- If your student misses a substantial number of days, the school may require qualified 3rd party documentation to excuse all future absences and early dismissals.
- Definition of a qualified 3rd party documentation would be: a note from a doctor, dentist, therapist, etc. which includes the specific dates of absence to be excused.
- If you cannot take your child to the doctor, you may bring your child to the school health room. If the school nurse determines that your student is too ill to stay at school, the absence will be excused.

Truancy Process

- After one (1) unexcused absence within any 30-day period, the parent will be notified by a Robo call.
- After three (3) unexcused absences within a 30-day period a conference will be scheduled with the parent (and student, if age appropriate) for the purpose of identifying barriers to the student's regular attendance and provide support and resources to reduce barriers.
- Between two (2) and five (5) unexcused cumulative absences in an academic school year, an *Assessment* to eliminate or reduce the student's absences will be administered to identify any barriers to attendance.
- If your student has an IEP or 504 Plan, the team will reconvene to discuss any necessary adjustments.
- At five (5) unexcused absences an agreement will be made with the student and/or parent to establish school attendance requirements.

Truancy Process continued

- At seven (7) unexcused absences in a 30-day period or ten (10) unexcused absences in an academic school year, a Truancy Petition will be filed with the Pierce County Juvenile Court.
- Community Truancy Boards are district level interventions that you may be referred to.
- If the above actions are not successful, the district will file a petition with the juvenile court alleging a violation of RCW 28A.225.010 by the parent, student or both parent and student.
- The parent and student will be required to appear in the Pierce County Juvenile Court. They will be given notices for a 30-day review hearing* and a 60-day court hearing**.
- The 30-day review hearing* will be canceled if the student attends every day between the workshop and the review hearing; otherwise, the student and parents must meet with the truancy probation officer.
- The 60-day court hearing** can also be canceled if the student attends school every day.

*** After 20 consecutive days of non-attendance, excused or unexcused, the school will withdraw the student.**

- **A re-engagement referral will be made for students in grades 9- 12 that have or will be withdrawn for 20 consecutive days of non-attendance.**

For more information on district attendance policies including acceptable reasons for absences and planned excused absences, please see our district attendance guide and Rights and Responsibility Handbook available at all of our schools, the district office and on our district website.