

EXCESSIVE TARDIES

Just as it is necessary to be at school each day, it is just as important to arrive on time.



Continued tardies allow time missed from class to accumulate and learning is affected as it would be if a student missed an entire day.

Simply having a note from a parent (or being brought in by an adult) to excuse a tardy will not constitute an excused absence. Please remember, this is designed to address patterns of lateness, not the occasional occurrence.

WAYS TO HELP

- ◆ Establish and stick to the basic routines (going to bed early, waking up on time, etc.) that will help your child develop the habit of on-time, daily attendance.
- ◆ Talk to your child about why going to school every day, all day is critical and important unless they are sick.
- ◆ Prepare a contingency plan for when you are unable to get your child to school (e.g., you experience car troubles, etc.)
- ◆ Contact the school if you are experiencing difficulty getting your child to school.
- ◆ Contact your child's teacher to find out what he/she missed.
- ◆ Set up medical and dental appointments for weekdays afterschool.



WASHINGTON STATE LAW

The State of Washington instituted its first Compulsory School Attendance Law back in 1871! By the early 1900's, all states had compulsory school attendance laws enacted to protect child welfare and to enhance literacy rates. In 1995, Washington State passed the Mandatory Attendance Law (also known as the "Becca Bill") regarding school attendance which requires all students to attend school regularly (whether that be public, private, or home school). For more information about Washington State Law, see RCW 28A.225

EVERETT PUBLIC SCHOOLS ATTENDANCE POLICY

Everett Public School's Attendance Policy (3122) states:

"Regular, consistent, timely attendance is essential to school success, student learning and future employment habits. Life-long attendance behaviors begin with entry into school at the pre-school or kindergarten level, and continue through middle school and into high school until the student graduates."

Both Washington State Law and Everett Public Schools policy dictate that parent/ guardians of any child 6 years of age and older shall cause such child to attend school and such child shall have the responsibility to and therefore shall attend for the full time when such school is in session unless the child is attending an approved private school or is receiving home-based instruction.

Please see the EPS Student Handbook for the complete attendance policy.



Woodside Elementary Attendance Policy and Information

**24 hr. attendance line
425.385.7805**





Dear Woodside Parents/Guardians,

At Woodside Elementary, we are committed to helping your child be successful in school. Learning takes place every moment of the day, whether students are receiving direct instruction, practicing academic or social skills, or simply reflecting on a completed activity. Just as you do, we value each minute your child is in school.

One of the most important factors in your students' academic success is their regular attendance at school. Research has repeatedly identified chronic absence - defined as missing 10 percent of the school year including both unexcused and excused absences - as an indicator that students are headed off track academically.

We appreciate your support in continuing to develop positive, lifelong habits in our students. Sending your child to school each day tells him or her how much you value the education they are receiving.

Sincerely yours,

Dr. Betty Cobbs
Principal



DID YOU KNOW?

Absenteeism and its negative effects start early.

- ◆ One in 10 kindergarten and first grade students are chronically absent.
- ◆ Absenteeism in the first month of school can predict poor attendance throughout the school year. Half the students who miss 2-4 days in September go on to miss nearly a month of school.
- ◆ Poor attendance can influence whether children read proficiently by the end of third grade.
- ◆ Early absences correlate with reading difficulties and poor attendance patterns in later years.
- ◆ By 6th grade, chronic absence becomes a leading indicator that a student will drop out of high school.
- ◆ When students improve their attendance rates, they improve their academic prospects and chances for graduating.

EXCUSED AND UNEXCUSED ABSENCES

Many parents believe that by simply calling in or sending a note with their child, that this constitutes an excused absence. This is not necessarily so.

When a student is absent from school, in order to be considered excused, we expect a call/email from a parent or legal guardian as soon as possible on the morning of the absence.

EXCUSED ABSENCES are cases in which the child is either physically or mentally unable to come to school. This can include the following examples*:

- ◆ Fever of 100 degrees or more, vomiting within the last 24 hours
- ◆ Contagious illness (chicken pox, pink-eye)
- ◆ A cold or other minor illness
- ◆ Doctor's appointment (although, we encourage you to schedule these outside of the school day)

**The school may request documentation verifying the above if they become excessive.*

UNEXCUSED ABSENCES are those which may be prevented or corrected to allow the child to attend school. These may include:

- A missed bus/transportation
- Family vacation
- No reason given for absence or tardy.

According to state law, any student with 7 unexcused absences in a month or 10 unexcused absences in a year will receive a BECCA petition from the juvenile court.

ATTEND TODAY, ACHIEVE TOMORROW

GOOD SCHOOL ATTENDANCE MEANS...

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| | | | |
| ELEMENTARY STUDENTS read well by the end of 3rd grade | MIDDLE SCHOOLERS pass important courses | HIGH SCHOOLERS stay on track for graduation | COLLEGE STUDENTS earn their degrees |

ATTENDANCE WORKS