

EXCUSED AND UNEXCUSED ABSENCES

It is the policy of the Eastmont School District Board of Directors that consistent attendance is essential to the success of all of our students. Students who miss critical instruction in key concepts quickly fall behind in school and are less likely to achieve academic success. Students are expected to attend all assigned in-person classes each day or participate in all assigned remote instructional activities; except when there are necessary reasons for students to be absent. Upon enrollment and at the beginning of each school year, the District will inform students and their parents/guardians of this expectation, the benefits of regular school attendance, the consequences of truancy, the role and responsibility of the District in regard to truancy, and resources available to assist the student and their parents and guardians in correcting truancy. The District will also make this information available online and will take reasonable steps to ensure parents can request and receive such information in languages in which they are fluent. Parents will be required to date and acknowledge review of this information online or in writing.

Regular school attendance is necessary for mastery of the educational program provided to students of the District. At times, students may be absent from class. Educators and administrators have a responsibility to monitor absences to determine if students and families need support. School staff will keep a record of absence and tardiness, including a record of excuse statements submitted by a parent/guardian, or in certain cases, students, to document a student's excused absences.

WAC 392-401A-045 requires school districts to implement minimum requirements of a multitiered system of support for attendance to address barriers to student attendance, provide timely interventions and best practices to reduce chronic absenteeism and truancy. Generally, judicial action will be the final intervention used.

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

Cross References:

Board Policy 3120	Enrollment
Board Policy 3230	Student Privacy and Searches
Board Policy 3240	Student Conduct
Board Policy 3241	Classroom Management, Discipline, and Corrective Actions
Board Policy 4218	Language Access Plan

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

Chapter 392-401 WAC

Statewide definition of absence, excused and unexcused

Management Resources:

Policy & Legal News, July 2023

Policy & Legal News, June 2022

Policy Alert, September 2020

Policy & Legal News, August 2018

Policy & Legal News, July 2017

Policy & Legal News, July 2016

Policy & Legal News, June 2015

Policy & Legal News, December 2012

Policy News, December 2011

Policy News, June 2001