

The Becca Bill

WA State's Truancy Law

Children ages 6 to 17 who are enrolled in public schools must attend school regularly. Truancy means being absent from school or from the majority of classes without a valid excuse.

- One Unexcused Absence: the school shall contact parents. This is often done by a phone call home.
- Two Unexcused Absences: the school shall schedule a conference with parent and student to discuss the causes of the unexcused absences and find solutions. RCW 28A.225.020(1)(a&b)
- Five and Ten Unexcused Absences: schools shall file a petition in juvenile court against the student and/or parent when a student accumulates five absences in a month or ten in a year. The purpose of the petition is to agree on steps to resolve the student's attendance problem and eventually order the student to attend school if unexcused absences continue to exist.

RCW 28A.225.030(1)&(2)c



"The beautiful thing about learning is that no one can take it away from you."

B.B. King



Skagit County
Community Services
Truancy Intervention Program
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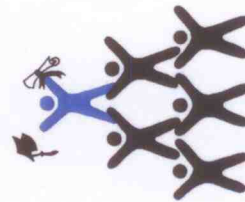
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SKAGIT COUNTY
COMMUNITY SERVICES

TRUANCY INTERVENTION PROGRAM

Working Together Towards
Student Success



Importance of School Attendance

Truancy is a first red flag for a student dropping out of school.

Regular attendance increases a student's chances of success at learning.

The U.S. Department of Education reports that for every missed day of school, it takes a student two days to catch up.

Education gives people critical thinking skills that help them better provide for themselves.

Education level is shown to relate to better health.

Income potential increases 10% for every year completed in school.



Intervention Specialists offer Help!

The Skagit County Truancy Intervention Program offers students support for re-engaging in school.

Myth: Students have poor attendance because they are lazy

Fact: Research shows that many factors contribute to poor attendance, including family, school, community, and personal issues.

Truancy Intervention Specialists work with students, families, schools and the community to address barriers and reinforce positive supports to help students stay in school and be engaged in learning.

Truancy Intervention Program

(360) 419-3420

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Tips for Parents

Research tells us that parents are the number one influence on their child's view of their education.



- ✓ Know your child's school attendance policies
- ✓ Have daily conversations with your child about their experience in school
- ✓ Communicate early and regularly with the school about your child
- ✓ Access the schools online student information program
- ✓ Comment often on your child's strengths
- ✓ Express expectations to be in school everyday and on time
- ✓ Limit screen time
- ✓ Discuss the importance of education and the impact on their future