



Whittier Elementary School Attendance Expectations and Truancy Notification

Attendance is a critical component to your child's success at Whittier Elementary School. We expect all students to attend every day, on time.

- School hours at Whittier are 8:35 a.m.-2:50 p.m.
- The first bell rings at 8:30 a.m.
- Instruction begins promptly at 8:35, at which time your child should be in his/her classroom.
- If your child is going to be absent from school the parent/guardian must E-mail: WHEAttendance@everettsd.org, or call Whittier's attendance line at: 425.385.4305. The specific reason and the date of the student's absence must be included in your communication.

Under state law, students are required to attend school until they reach the age of 18 (RCW.28A.225).

The BECCA Law requires schools to notify juvenile court when students are in violation of this statute.

Additionally, the state of Washington Compulsory Attendance Law, Chapter 28A.225RCW requires the school to notify the parent/guardian in the following:

- In writing or by telephone whenever a child has **one unexcused absence** during any month.
- To schedule an informational attendance conference with the parent/guardian after **three unexcused absences** within any month to take steps in providing resources and support to reduce or eliminate all absences
- To schedule an informational attendance conference with the parent/guardian after **five excused absences** within a month (if not previously prearranged approval from the school principal) to take steps in providing resources and support to reduce or eliminate all absences.
- A truancy petition may be filed if the student has **five unexcused absences** within one month or within the school year.
- A truancy petition may be filed if the student has **ten excused absences** within the school year.
- Letters informing parents/guardians of excessive tardies will be sent home.
- Students arriving after 9:06 a.m. will be marked as absent for a half day.
- Students missing 50% of their school day will be marked as absent for a full day.
- When twenty consecutive days of school are missed, the student will be withdrawn from the district. If the registrar does not receive a request for records within ten days of withdrawal, a BECCA petition will be filed.

We look forward to seeing your child at school on time, each and every day. If you need assistance or if you would like recommendations on how to help ensure your child's regular school attendance, please contact your child's teacher, the school counselor, the assistant principal or principal.

Every minute at Whittier matters!