

DID YOU KNOW?

- By third grade, chronically absent students, especially those who have experienced multiple years of poor attendance, are less likely to read on grade level.
- By sixth grade, chronic absence becomes an early warning sign that a student may drop out of high school.
- Students are at risk academically if they miss 10 percent of the school year, or about 18 days. Once too many absences have occurred, they can affect learning, regardless of whether absences are excused or unexcused.

SCHOOL'S OBLIGATIONS UNDER THE LAW:

First (1) unexcused absence- Inform parent/Guardian.

Third (3) unexcused absences - Schedule a meeting/conference with the parent/legal guardian and student.

Between the second (2) and fifth (5) unexcused absence- the school is required to take data informed steps to address barriers to attendance.

Fifth (5) unexcused absences within 30 days- School must either enter into a written agreement with the family, refer to a Community Truancy Board, or file a truancy petition in juvenile court.

Seven (7) unexcused absences during a month or at the tenth (10th) unexcused absence within a school year. The school district **MUST** file a petition in juvenile court

For more details see **RCW 28A.225** or visit **OSPI:**

<http://www.k12.wa.us/Attendance/Truancy.aspx>

Questions

If you have questions, or want more information:

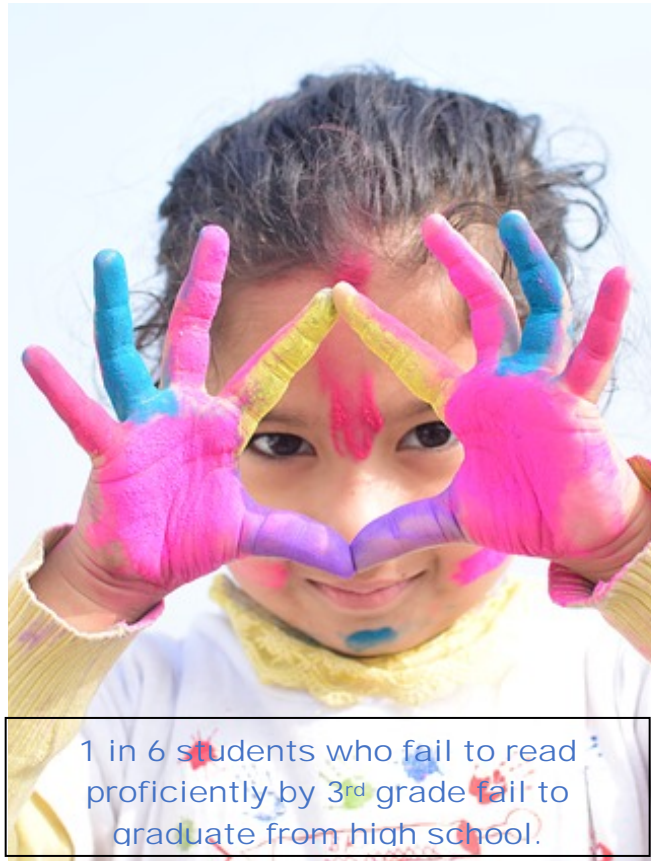
District/ Rep Contact Information:

Juvenile Court

BECCA Court Program Coordinator:
206-477-2746

King County Prosecuting Attorney's Office

Truancy DPA:
206-477-4336
Education Reengagement Advocate:
206-477-1107



1 in 6 students who fail to read proficiently by 3rd grade fail to graduate from high school.



A Parent's Guide to the Becca Bill

Why Early Education is Important

Elementary Edition



The Becca Bill

(RCW 28A.225- Washington State Compulsory School Attendance and Admission Law)

All children/youth in Washington State have a right to an education. All children/ youth are also legally required to attend school.

Washington’s truancy law is often also referred to as the “Becca Bill”. It is intended to reengage the student and to stop truancy before it becomes a problem. Schools and families should work together as a team to ensure school attendance and student safety.

School attendance is **required** by law for all children **ages 8-17** unless the child is:

- 1) Receiving home-based instruction or enrolled in private school
- 2) Attending a certified education center devoted to teaching basic academic skills, or
- 3) Excused by the school superintendent because they are physically or mentally unable to attend school.

The law also applies to children **ages 6 and 7** if enrolled in a public school.

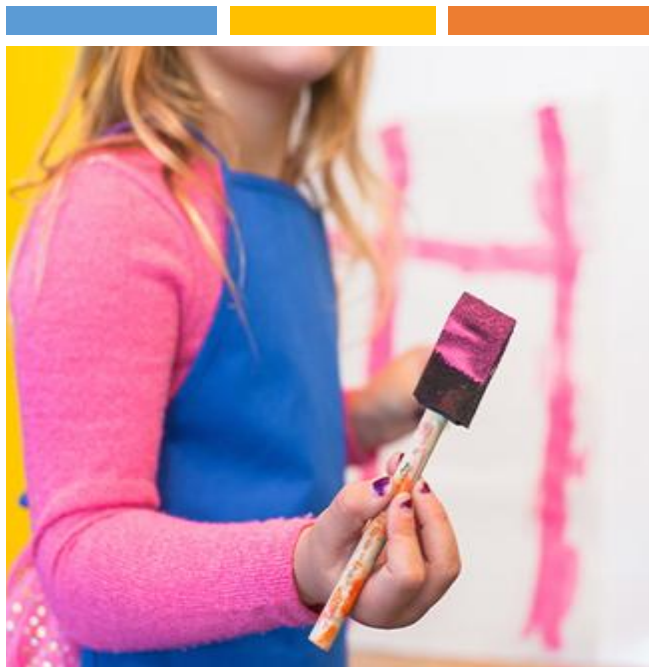
Truancy laws exist in order to make sure that no child falls through the cracks and that the proper accommodations and interventions are in place to address the barriers to regular school attendance.

School districts around the state have different rules and regulations about student attendance and how parents should excuse absences. Be sure to read the attendance policies in your school district and discuss them with your student.

King County’s Approach

In partnership with King County Superior Court, the King County Prosecuting Attorney’s Office (KCPAO) works with school districts in order to take a preemptive and restorative approach to help keep young people engaged with their education while addressing the barriers to attendance.

We strive for positive outcomes by keeping young people out of the formal court process, through increased community participation, education reengagement, KCPAO attendance workshops, pre-trial conferences, community mentoring, IF Project, Girls Empowerment Groups, and alternative education programs.



Only 17% of students who are chronically absent from K and 1st grade can read on grade level AFTER 3rd grade

(missed 18 or more days both years)

Parent Resources:

- **Children’s Crisis Outreach Response (CCORS):** 206-461-3222 or 1-866-4CRISIS.
- **McKinney Vento (McKinney-Vento Education of Homeless Children and Youth Assistance Act):** <http://www.k12.wa.us/HomelessEd/>
- **Special Education Support center:** <http://specialeducationsupportcenter.org/resources/resources-families/>
- **Step Up (Building Respectful family Relationships):** 206-296-7841
- **Mental Health Supports:** Nexus, Valley Cities, Youth East Side Services, Sound Mental Health, Kent Youth & Family, Conejos, Asian Counseling Services, Navos, Renton Youth and Family, Therapeutic Health Services, Hopelink.
- **LGBTQ Supports:** Seattle Counseling Services, Northwest Network, Youth Care, PFLAG, GLOBE, Lambert House.