

*Students are missed when they are gone and we value their contributions to our schools.*

### What we need from you

- Schedule appointments to occur after school.
- Only let your student stay home if they are truly sick.
- Develop a back-up plan for getting to school if something comes up.
- Talk to your student about the importance of attendance.
- Talk to your student's teachers if you notice sudden changes in behavior. These could be tied to something going on at school.
- Update your student's information at school if your address or phone number changes.
- If your student is going to be absent, please contact your school's attendance office. The attendance voicemail system is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week. If prior notice is not possible, you may call, send an e-mail, or written note upon the student's return to school.
  - ◊ Notification shall include:
    - ⇒ Name of student
    - ⇒ Name and contact information of person providing the excuse and his/her relationship to the student
    - ⇒ Dates of absence
    - ⇒ Reason for absence



### Contacts:

Brouillet Elementary	253-841-8670
Carson Elementary	253-840-8808
Dessie Evans Elementary	253-864-5500
Edgerton Elementary	253-840-8809
Firgrove Elementary	253-841-8733
Fruitland Elementary	253-841-8734
Hunt Elementary	253-841-8690
Karshner Elementary	253-841-8736
Maplewood Elementary	253-841-8737
Meeker Elementary	253-841-8738
Mt. View Elementary	253-841-8739
Northwood Elementary	253-841-8740
Pope Elementary	253-841-8755
Ridgecrest Elementary	253-841-8753
Shaw Road Elementary	253-841-8675
Spinning Elementary	253-841-8742
Stewart Elementary	253-841-8743
Sunrise Elementary	253-841-8744
Waller Road Elementary	253-841-8745
Wildwood Elementary	253-841-8746
Woodland Elementary	253-841-8747
Zeiger Elementary	253-841-8663
Puyallup Digital Learning	253-841-8630

*We are here to help. If you are in need of assistance, please contact your child's school or the district office. We want to understand why your student is absent and assist you in finding ways to avoid it.*

Megan Davis  
 Attendance Intervention Specialist  
 (253) 435-6295  
 davismr2@puyallup.k12.wa.us



**PUYALLUP**  
 SCHOOL DISTRICT  
*A Tradition of Excellence*

## Attendance

*Daily attendance is one of the most powerful predictors of school success and on-time graduation. Our goal is to have every student at school on-time everyday.*



**ATTENDANCE MATTERS!**  
**Everyday. On-time.**

## Did You Know?

- Starting in kindergarten, too many absences (excused and unexcused) can cause children to fall behind in school.
- Missing 10% of the school year is considered chronically absent. That's only 2 days a month!
- Being late to school may lead to poor attendance.
- Setting a regular bedtime and morning routines can reduce tardies and absences.
- By 6th grade, absenteeism is one of three signs that a student may drop out of high school.
- Absences can be a sign that a student is losing interest in school, struggling with school work, dealing with a bully or facing some other potentially serious difficulty.



## State Law and Attendance Policies

The Becca Bill, requires children from age 8 to 17 to attend a public school, private school, or a district-approved home school program.

Children who are 6- or 7-years-old are not required to be enrolled in school. However, if parents do enroll their 6- or 7-year-old, the student must attend full-time. Youth who are 16 or older may be excused from attending public school if they meet certain requirements.

<http://apps.leg.wa.gov/rcw/default.aspx?cite=28A.225>.

## What happens if my student misses school?

- Please contact your student's school to communicate the reason for the absence. If there is a valid excuse for the absence, it will be excused. The school principal (or designee) has the authority to determine if an absence meets the criteria for an excused absences.
- If your student misses a substantial number of days, the school may require 3rd party documentation to excuse all future absences and early dismissals. Qualified 3rd party documentation includes a note from a doctor, dentist, therapist, etc. which lists the specific dates of absence to be excused. If you cannot take your child to the doctor, you may bring your child to the school health room. If the school nurse determines that your student is too ill to stay at school, the absence will be excused.
- After 20 consecutive days of non attendance, excused or unexcused, we are required to unenroll your student from school.

- Elementary only: after five excused absences in a 30 day period, or ten or more excused absences in the school year, the school is required\* to schedule a conference to discuss the barriers to attendance and create a plan to support improved attendance. If your student has an Individualized Education Plan or a 504 Plan the team that created the plan needs to reconvene.

\* A conference is not required if your student has provided a doctor's note, or the absences are due to a planned excused absence.

## What if my student's absences are unexcused?

- After 3 unexcused absences in a 30 day period a conference will be scheduled with you and your student to identify the barriers and supports available to ensure regular attendance.
- After 7 unexcused absences in a 30 day period or 10 unexcused absences within the school year, we are required to file a petition with juvenile court, alleging a violation of RCW 28A.225.010. The petition will automatically be stayed in order to continue to try and improve attendance.
- Community Truancy Boards are district level interventions that you may be referred to.
- If above actions are not successful, the district will file a petition with the juvenile court alleging a violation of RCW 28A.225.010 by the parent, student or parent and student. The parent and student will be required to appear in the Pierce County Juvenile Court.

For more information on all of the district attendance policies, including valid excuses for absences and planned excused absences, please see our district attendance guide. The guide is available at all of our schools, the district office and on the district website.