



- Starting in kindergarten, too many absences (excused and unexcused) can cause children to fall behind.
- By ninth grade, regular and high attendance is a better predictor of graduation rates than eighth grade test scores.
- Absences can affect the whole classroom if the teacher has to slow down learning to help children catch up.
- Being late to school may lead to poor attendance.
- Students can still fall behind if they miss just a day or two days every few weeks.
- Missing 10 percent (or about 18 days) increases the chance that your child will not read or master math at the same level as their peers.
- By sixth grade, absenteeism is one of three signs that a child may drop out of high school.
- By being present at school, your child learns valuable social skills and has the opportunity to develop meaningful relationships with other students and school staff.
- Absences can be a sign that a child is losing interest in school, struggling with school work, dealing with a bully or facing some other potentially serious difficulty.
- Set a regular bed time and morning routine.
- Prepare for school the night before, finishing homework and getting a good night's sleep.
- Find out what day and time school starts and monitor the school calendar closely.
- Don't let your student stay home unless they are truly sick. Keep in mind complaints of a stomach ache or headache can be a sign of anxiety and not a reason to stay home.
- Avoid appointments and extended trips when school is in session.
- Develop back-up plans for getting to school if something comes up. Call on a family member, a neighbor, or another parent.
- Keep track of your child's attendance. Missing more than nine days could put your student at risk of falling behind.
- Talk to your child about the importance of attendance.
- Talk to your child's teachers if you notice sudden changes in behavior. These could be tied to something going on at school.
- Encourage meaningful after-school activities, including sports and clubs.

1. Participation in school-approved activity or instructional program

2. Absence due to illness, health condition, family emergency, religious purpose, etc.

3. Absence for parental-approved activities

4. Absence resulting from disciplinary actions or short-term suspension

5. Extended illness or health condition

6. Excused absence for chronic health condition

For more information about the Becca bill and Common School Provisions Title 28A, visit app.leg.wa.gov/RCW.