

## Attendance Policy

### **Truancy (Becca Bill) and Compulsory Attendance**

Attendance is important for academic success, and unexcused absences may be an early warning sign for unaddressed problems with school and future dropout. When youth fail to attend school, they are considered truant.

Washington law requires children from age 8 to 17 to attend a public school, private school, or to receive home-based instruction (homeschooling) as provided in subsection (4) of RCW 28A.225.010. Children who are 6- or 7-years-old are not required to be enrolled in school. However, if parents enroll their 6- or 7-year-old, the student must attend full-time. Youth who are 16 or older may be excused from public school if they meet certain requirements.

<http://www.k12.wa.us/GATE/Truancy/>

Full-time students will be required to attend classes each day at the physical facility. If student cannot make class, the student and parent or guardian must submit a valid excuse to the school via phone, email, text, or fax. Examples of valid excuses are the following:

- (1) Participation in a district or school approved activity or instructional program;
  - (2) Illness, health condition or medical appointment (including, but not limited to, medical, counseling, dental or optometry) for the student or person for who the student is legally responsible;
  - (3) Family emergency including, but not limited to, a death or illness in the family;
  - (4) Religious or cultural purpose including observance of a religious or cultural holiday or participation in religious or cultural instruction;
  - (5) Court, judicial proceeding, or serving on a jury;
  - (6) Post-secondary, technical school or apprenticeship program visitation, or scholarship interview;
  - (7) State-recognized search and rescue activities consistent with RCW [28A.225.055](#);
  - (8) Absence directly related to the student's homeless status;
  - (9) Absences related to deployment activities of a parent or legal guardian who is an active duty member consistent with RCW [28A.705.010](#);
  - (10) Absence resulting from a disciplinary/corrective action (e.g., short-term or long-term suspension, emergency expulsion);
- and
- (11) Principal (or designee) and parent, guardian, or emancipated youth mutually agreed upon approved activity.

The school principal (or designee) has the authority to determine if an absence meets the above criteria for an excused absence.

### **Unexcused daily absences**

Any absence from school is unexcused unless it meets one of the criteria above for an excused absence.

<http://apps.leg.wa.gov/wac/default.aspx?cite=392-400-325>

[http://www.k12.wa.us/GATE/pubdocs/Webinar\\_Attendance\\_150916.pdf](http://www.k12.wa.us/GATE/pubdocs/Webinar_Attendance_150916.pdf)

Saddle Mountain School does not discriminate in any programs, admission, or activities on the basis of sex, race, creed, religion, color, national origin, age, veteran or military status, sexual orientation, gender expression or identity, disability, or the use of a trained dog guide or service animal and provides equal access to the Boy Scouts and other designated youth groups. Every student will be provided equal educational opportunities and treated with respect. The following employee(s) has been designated to handle questions and complaints of alleged discrimination: [Phyllis Magden, Chief Administrator] [2451 W. Bench Rd Othello, WA 99344] [509-760-3321] [phyllismagden@yahoo.com].

<http://www.k12.wa.us/Equity/Districts/NondiscriminationStatement.aspx>

**Unexcused daily absences:**

Saddle Mt. School will make every effort to contact the student/parent/guardian and provide different intervention strategies, but if five unexcused absences occur in month will we withdraw the student from the school. Saddle Mt. School is not under any requirement to continue a student's enrollment or re-enroll a student.

**Home-extension students:**

Students enrolled in the home-extension program will be required to spend one contact hour per week with certified teacher. If student is unable to make the meeting, the student should attempt to reschedule within the week or have a valid excuse for absence. If student does not attempt to make any contact for one month (four unexcused absences), the student will be withdrawn from the program. Saddle Mt. School is not under any requirement to continue a student's enrollment or re-enroll a student.

Student Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Enrollment start date \_\_\_\_\_

Notes:

Adopted: 5.2016

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