

BALLARD HIGH SCHOOL ATTENDANCE POLICY

Since experience has shown that frequent absences from school contribute to poor achievement, the current grading practices will include student attendance. The laws of the State of Washington require regular attendance of all pupils enrolled in the public schools. It is the responsibility of the student to make up missed class assignments/tests for excused absences. Classroom assignments may be requested through the Counseling Office if the student is going to be absent more than three school days. Please allow twenty-four hours to process a request.

Ballard High School Attendance Office: (206) 252-1009

Attendance is required so that students will be able to:

- Participate in oral presentations
- Participate in all classroom physical activities
- Participate in class discussions or in group work that does not involve written work
- Receive verbal instructions concerning new concepts and review of previous concepts.
- Participate in lab activities
- Collaborate in group processing skills
- Hear and respond to guest speakers and outside resources (films, video presentations, etc.)

DEFINITION OF AN ABSENCE: The following Seattle School District definitions apply to students at all ages:

Excused Absences:

- Unplanned absences are excused when your child's personal illness or injury, or the illness, injury or death of a family member, prevents your child from attending school. The school may require a note from your child's doctor before excusing those absences if your child is absent due to illness or injury for an excessive number of days. Ballard High School requires a note or email from a parent or guardian to excuse any absence within 3 days of student's return to school from any absence.
- Planned absences are excused when a request is turned into The Attendance Office, for a planned absence of two or more days a "Pre-Arranged Absence Form" is needed, for a planned absence of less than two full days a note or email can be sent to The Attendance Office. An Assistant Principal will determine if the absence is excused or not excused based on policy. Trips and Vacations are not excused.
- Absences due to short-term discipline of your child are excused on District attendance records unless your child is under court order to attend school without additional truancies or behavior problems.

Unexcused Absences:

- All other absences are considered unexcused, including absences caused by the student or parent oversleeping, student missing the bus, transportation problems, student needed for babysitting, student job requirements, etc.
- Absences by long-term suspended or expelled students for whom space is available in the reentry program, but who do not enroll and attend, are unexcused.
- Students entering a class more than 10 minutes after the tardy bell will be counted as an unexcused absence.

PROCEDURES REGARDING EXCUSED ABSENCES

Ballard HS does not excuse absences by phone. To excuse an absence, Parent/Guardian sends an email to The Attendance Office or note delivered by student to The Attendance Office within **3 school days** of returning to school. The note or email must include: The student's full name, the reason for the absence, date of absence, name and phone number of parent/guardian that wrote the note/email. A late written excuse does not remove an unexcused absence from the records. Note: Students living on their own need to contact their administrator to establish the procedures to be followed regarding attendance. All work missed due to excused absences must be made up as determined by the classroom teacher.

DEFINITION OF A TARDY A tardy is defined as a student entering a class after the tardy bell has sounded. Unexcused tardies must be recorded in the teacher's roll book and on the Attendance Office forms.

- When tardy to periods 2-6, students must get a tardy pass from an administrator or security specialist to admit them to class. This pass will result in the student serving one day of lunchroom detention.
- Tardies may affect your course grade and credit.
- Students entering a class more than 10 minutes after the tardy bell will be counted as an unexcused absence.

EARLY DISMISSALS:

Planned Early Dismissals need to be excused in advance, with note or email, preferably by the morning of the day of the Early Dismissal. Students leaving during class need to pick up a pass at The Attendance Office to present to the teacher before they leave class. Students that are ill need permission from the Nurse, Attendance Office, or administrator after parent or guardian is contacted and has approved of their child leaving school. Early dismissals will not be excused after the fact.

LATE ARRIVALS:

Students with written excuses or parent/guardian that has emailed should report directly to the Attendance Secretary. Students without written excuses should go directly to class.

PRE-ARRANGED ABSENCES:

1. A pre-arranged absence form school sponsored events and Field Trips will be provided to the student from the appropriate advisor/sponsor.
2. Students and parents/guardians must complete the form and must obtain classroom teacher's signatures **THREE DAYS PRIOR TO THE EVENT**. Teachers should mark this in their roll books.
3. The student must return the completed form to the advisor/sponsor **THREE DAYS PRIOR TO THE EVENT**.

GRADING POLICY RELATED TO ATTENDANCE:

Teachers are encouraged to incorporate participation into their grading system. Participation may include points earned for being in class and on time. Students will be notified of teachers' participation grading policies in their syllabi.

COMPULSORY STATE ATTENDANCE LAW - "BECCA" BILL

Parent/guardians of children at least eight years old and less than eighteen years old must have their children in school on a full time basis or in an approved home instruction program. If a student has seven (7) unexcused absences within a month or ten or more unexcused absences within a school year, the School District is required to file a petition in juvenile court directed toward the student, parent/guardian or both.