

Truancy Letter

General Education & Special Education Students

A Truancy Letter from a school district is **different** than receiving a Petition Regarding Truancy (PTTRU). A Petition Regarding Truancy is from the Superior Court of Washington, Juvenile Court.

The Truancy Letter from a school district more than likely references Revised Code of Washington RCW 28A.225.010 **Attendance mandatory - Age - Exceptions**

Did You Know?!

The Revised Code of Washington RCW 28A.225.020 **School's duties upon child's failure to attend school** is important when a student fails to attend school "without a valid justification".

(ii) For any child **with an existing individualized education plan or 504 plan**, these steps must include the convening of the child's individualized education plan or 504 plan team, including a behavior specialist or mental health specialist where appropriate, to consider the reasons for the absences. If necessary, and if consent from the parent is given, a functional behavior assessment to explore the function of the absence behavior shall be conducted and a detailed behavior plan completed. Time should be allowed for the behavior plan to be initiated and data tracked to determine progress.

(iii) With respect to any child, **without an existing individualized education plan or 504 plan, reasonably believed to have a mental or physical disability or impairment**, these steps must include informing the child's parent of the right to obtain an appropriate evaluation at no cost to the parent to determine whether the child has a disability or impairment and needs accommodations, related services, or special education services. This includes children with suspected emotional or behavioral disabilities as defined in WAC 392-172A-01035. If the school obtains consent to conduct an evaluation, time should be allowed for the evaluation to be completed, and if the child is found to be eligible for special education services, accommodations, or related services, a plan developed to address the child's needs.

Does this mean the parent/guardian only meets with one person from the school is sufficient?

No

Does this mean the meeting must include a behavior specialist or mental health specialist?

It depends.

Does your student have a behavioral or mental health concern that could be preventing them from attending school?

Then, yes.

How do I know what is considered an absence from school?

Please review Washington Administrative Code WAC 392-401-020. Excused absences.

Where can I get more information?

See below.

Statewide Definition of Absence, Excused and Unexcused
Washington Administrative Code WAC 392-401

Student absences - General requirements

Washington Administrative Code WAC 392-401-040

Multitiered system of support for attendance

Washington Administrative Code WAC 392-401-045

Washington Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI)

- Attendance, Chronic Absenteeism, and Truancy
- District Truancy Liaison