
SENATE BILL 6268

State of Washington

55th Legislature

1998 Regular Session

By Senators McAuliffe, Hochstatter, Rasmussen, Loveland, Zarelli,
Johnson, B. Sheldon, Fairley, Kohl, Thibaudeau, Hargrove and Spanel

Read first time . Referred to Committee on .

1 AN ACT Relating to attending school; and amending RCW 28A.225.020.

2 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

3 **Sec. 1.** RCW 28A.225.020 and 1996 c 134 s 2 are each amended to
4 read as follows:

5 (1) If a child required to attend school under RCW 28A.225.010 or
6 a child under the age of eight who is enrolled in a school fails to
7 attend school without valid justification, the public school in which
8 the child is enrolled shall:

9 (a) Inform the child's custodial parent, parents, or guardian by a
10 notice in writing or by telephone whenever the child has failed to
11 attend school after one unexcused absence within any month during the
12 current school year. School officials shall inform the parent of the
13 potential consequences of additional unexcused absences;

14 (b) Schedule a conference or conferences with the custodial parent,
15 parents, or guardian and child at a time reasonably convenient for all
16 persons included for the purpose of analyzing the causes of the child's
17 absences after two unexcused absences within any month during the
18 current school year. If a regularly scheduled parent-teacher
19 conference day is to take place within thirty days of the second

1 unexcused absence, then the school district may schedule this
2 conference on that day; and

3 (c) Take steps to eliminate or reduce the child's absences. These
4 steps shall include, where appropriate, adjusting the child's school
5 program or school or course assignment, providing more individualized
6 or remedial instruction, providing appropriate vocational courses or
7 work experience, referring the child to a community truancy board,
8 requiring the child to attend an alternative school or program, or
9 assisting the parent or child to obtain supplementary services that
10 might eliminate or ameliorate the cause or causes for the absence from
11 school. If the child's parent does not attend the scheduled
12 conference, the conference may be conducted with the student and school
13 official. However, the parent shall be notified of the steps to be
14 taken to eliminate or reduce the child's absence.

15 (2) For purposes of this chapter, an "unexcused absence" means that
16 a child:

17 (a) Has failed to attend the majority of hours or periods in an
18 average school day or has failed to comply with a more restrictive
19 school district policy; and

20 (b) Has failed to meet the school district's policy for excused
21 absences.

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