
HOUSE BILL 2964

State of Washington 58th Legislature 2004 Regular Session

By Representatives McMahan, Kirby and Sullivan

Read first time 01/23/2004. Referred to Committee on Education.

1 AN ACT Relating to excused absences for high school students; and
2 amending RCW 28A.225.010.

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

4 **Sec. 1.** RCW 28A.225.010 and 1998 c 244 s 14 are each amended to
5 read as follows:

6 (1) All parents in this state of any child eight years of age and
7 under eighteen years of age shall cause such child to attend the public
8 school of the district in which the child resides and such child shall
9 have the responsibility to and therefore shall attend for the full time
10 when such school may be in session unless:

11 (a) The child is attending an approved private school for the same
12 time or is enrolled in an extension program as provided in RCW
13 28A.195.010(4);

14 (b) The child is receiving home-based instruction as provided in
15 subsection (4) of this section;

16 (c) The child is attending an education center as provided in
17 chapter 28A.205 RCW;

18 (d) The school district superintendent of the district in which the
19 child resides shall have excused such child from attendance because the

1 child is physically or mentally unable to attend school, is attending
2 a residential school operated by the department of social and health
3 services, is incarcerated in an adult correctional facility, or has
4 been temporarily excused upon the request of his or her parents for
5 purposes agreed upon by the school authorities and the parent:
6 PROVIDED, That such excused absences shall not be permitted if deemed
7 to cause a serious adverse effect upon the student's educational
8 progress: PROVIDED FURTHER, That students excused for such temporary
9 absences may be claimed as full time equivalent students to the extent
10 they would otherwise have been so claimed for the purposes of RCW
11 28A.150.250 and 28A.150.260 and shall not affect school district
12 compliance with the provisions of RCW 28A.150.220; ((~~or~~))

13 (e) The student is in grade nine through twelve, the parent has
14 approved the absence in advance, and the absences do not total more
15 than:

16 (i) Ten days per academic year for a student with a grade point
17 average of 3.5 or more; and

18 (ii) Eight days per academic year for a student with a grade point
19 average of at least 3.2 but less than 3.5.

20 The board of directors shall adopt a policy that permits excused
21 absences under this subsection (1)(e) in addition to the excused
22 absences for the general student population permitted by (d) of this
23 subsection; or

24 (f) The child is sixteen years of age or older and:

25 (i) The child is regularly and lawfully employed and either the
26 parent agrees that the child should not be required to attend school or
27 the child is emancipated in accordance with chapter 13.64 RCW;

28 (ii) The child has already met graduation requirements in
29 accordance with state board of education rules and regulations; or

30 (iii) The child has received a certificate of educational
31 competence under rules and regulations established by the state board
32 of education under RCW 28A.305.190.

33 (2) A parent for the purpose of this chapter means a parent,
34 guardian, or person having legal custody of a child.

35 (3) An approved private school for the purposes of this chapter and
36 chapter 28A.200 RCW shall be one approved under regulations established
37 by the state board of education pursuant to RCW 28A.305.130.

1 (4) For the purposes of this chapter and chapter 28A.200 RCW,
2 instruction shall be home-based if it consists of planned and
3 supervised instructional and related educational activities, including
4 a curriculum and instruction in the basic skills of occupational
5 education, science, mathematics, language, social studies, history,
6 health, reading, writing, spelling, and the development of an
7 appreciation of art and music, provided for a number of hours
8 equivalent to the total annual program hours per grade level
9 established for approved private schools under RCW 28A.195.010 and
10 28A.195.040 and if such activities are:

11 (a) Provided by a parent who is instructing his or her child only
12 and are supervised by a certificated person. A certificated person for
13 purposes of this chapter and chapter 28A.200 RCW shall be a person
14 certified under chapter 28A.410 RCW. For purposes of this section,
15 "supervised by a certificated person" means: The planning by the
16 certificated person and the parent of objectives consistent with this
17 subsection; a minimum each month of an average of one contact hour per
18 week with the child being supervised by the certificated person; and
19 evaluation of such child's progress by the certificated person. The
20 number of children supervised by the certificated person shall not
21 exceed thirty for purposes of this subsection; or

22 (b) Provided by a parent who is instructing his or her child only
23 and who has either earned forty-five college level quarter credit hours
24 or its equivalent in semester hours or has completed a course in home-
25 based instruction at a postsecondary institution or a vocational-
26 technical institute; or

27 (c) Provided by a parent who is deemed sufficiently qualified to
28 provide home-based instruction by the superintendent of the local
29 school district in which the child resides.

30 (5) The legislature recognizes that home-based instruction is less
31 structured and more experiential than the instruction normally provided
32 in a classroom setting. Therefore, the provisions of subsection (4) of
33 this section relating to the nature and quantity of instructional and
34 related educational activities shall be liberally construed.

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