

The Court Process

When a child misses 7 unexcused absences in a month or 10 unexcused absences in a year, they could be placed under the Becca Order to attend school. The Becca laws require children to attend school every day unless ill or excused by school administrator.

The court may order a parent to do community service or even pay fines of \$25.00 for each day the child has an unexcused absence. Children are entitled to court appointed legal counsel from the first court hearing. However, parents are not provided with free legal counsel.

The intent is to implement solutions to assist the family with success in school. Korinna Barth, Truancy Services Facilitator, is available to assist you and your student in success.



**Success begins at school. Be a success,
go to school & get the education you
deserve**

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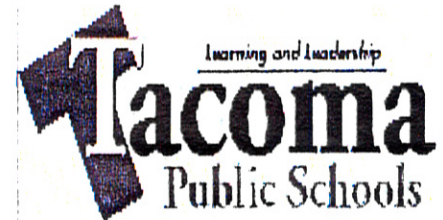


Tacoma School District

Korinna Barth
601 South 8th, 5th Floor
Tacoma, WA 98401

Korinna Barth
Truancy Services Facilitator
Office: 253-571-1012
Cell: 253-579-5167
Fax: 253-571-1086

A Parent's Guide to the Becca Bill



Korinna Barth
Truancy Services Facilitator
Office: 253-571-1012
Cell: 253-579-5167
Fax: 253-571-1086
Email:
kbarth@tacoma.k12.wa.us
601 South 8th, 5th Floor
Tacoma, WA 98401

The Becca Bill RCW 28A.225

Washington State Compulsory School Attendance and Admission Laws Policy 3122—Excused & Unexcused Absences Policy 3121— Compulsory Attendance

Washington State's Becca Bill is named for a young Tacoma girl who was murdered in 1993 while living on the streets in Spokane.

The purpose of the bill is to “empower parents to help their children when they have run away or when their child’s substance abuse or mental health problems place them in serious danger of harming themselves or others.” One aspect of the bill requires that all school districts track the number of student absences and notify parents when their children have violated attendance procedures.

Education has the potential to affect our children for the rest of their lives. Working together, we can design a plan to keep your child in school.

Age 6 years old to 18 years old are required to attend school every day without excuse other than Policy 3121 & 3122.

Parent Resources

At Risk Youth & Truancy Numbers

Pierce Co. Juvenile Court 253-798-7900
Family Reconciliation Services 253-983-6100
Missing & Exploited Children 1-800-843-5678 (1-800-THE-LOST)
Non-emergent Police Dept. to file run away report
Phone: 253-798-4721

Tacoma Rescue Mission, (family shelter)—Homeless
Phone 253-272-1974
Address: 609 South 15th Street, Tacoma, WA

Energy Assistance 1-800-348-7144
Food and clothing assistance 253-835-7678
Transportation services—253-383-3697

Tutoring—Peace Community Church
Phone: 253-383-0702
Address: 2106 S. Cushman Ave, Tacoma, WA

Domestic Violence—YWCA—253-272-4181 or
Phone: 253-597-6444
Address: 1144 Market St, Tacoma, WA

Youth Resources: 253-383-4361 for clinics, medical, housing, substance abuse, meals and runaway help.

Tacoma Indian Center 253-593-2707 meals, clothing and classes.

Tacoma Urban League—253-383-2007

Consejo, Tacoma - 253-414-7461

Reach Center - 253-573-6590

**Truancy Services Facilitator—
Tacoma School District—Korinna Barth
Cell: 253-579-5167**

Your Choice, Your Future—Which path and stepping stone will you choose?

“Touch a child’s life today & make a difference for a lifetime, one child at a time.” Korinna Barth

What Can A Parent Do?

- Meet your child’s teachers and other school personnel. They can provide important insights into the child’s school performance and suggest ways for improvement.
- If you are concerned about your child’s attitude toward school, contact your child’s teacher, counselor and/or school principal.
- Develop a phone-in with the school to check on the child’s daily attendance.
- Help your child develop good study and work habits.
- Self-confidence is important. Recognize when your child does well in school and other activities.
- Explain how dropouts have more trouble getting and keeping jobs and make half as much money as graduates.
- Get to know your child’s friends and classmates. They can influence your child’s school performance. Lack of friends or problems with classmates can also affect school performance and attendance.
- Let your child know that 75% of all prisoners are high school dropouts.

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