

IMPORTANT INFORMATION **WASHINGTON STATE ATTENDANCE LAW**

September 2009

Dear Parents/Guardians and Students:

My name is Cyndi Campbell. I am the Becca Coordinator at Redmond High School and would like to welcome you to another wonderful school year.

I hope by now you have all heard something about the Becca Bill. For those of you that have not, the Becca Bill is the Washington State Mandatory Attendance Law that passed in the spring of 1995 (RCW 28A.225). This law addresses student truancy and replaced the old truancy law. The goal of the Becca Bill is to keep students in school.

Becca affects all students in the State of Washington ages 8 through 17. The law requires only one thing of a student: attend school. The school is responsible for notifying the parents/guardian in writing or by telephone that their child is not attending school and has an unexcused absence. An unexcused absence is defined as failure to attend the majority of hours or periods in an average school day for which no parent/guardian has excused or failure to comply with a more restrictive school district policy.

Redmond High School requires that the parent/guardian leave a message (24 hours a day) with the Attendance Office at (425) 498-7140 when a student is going to be absent, and not later than 24 hours after the absence. Under the Becca Bill, parents are responsible for their child's full-time attendance. If it is determined that a student is truant, as set forth in the RHS Attendance Policy, the parent/guardian will be notified by phone or by mail, of the unexcused absence. If the truant behavior continues, a conference will be set to help reduce the student's unexcused absences. If unexcused absences accumulate to seven (7) unexcused absences within any 30 day period, or ten (10) unexcused absences during the school year, court action is required and a Petition will be filed against the student and parent with the King County Superior Court. Sanctions may include juvenile detention for children and fines for parents.

We, at Redmond High School, look forward to working with you this year and are committed to each student's success. Please feel free to contact me at (425) 498-7154 if you have any questions regarding the Becca Bill.

Sincerely,

Cyndi R. Campbell
Becca Coordinator
Redmond High School