



TO: BOARD OF DIRECTORS

FROM: RYAN OVENELL, DEPUTY SUPERINTENDENT

SUBJECT: Snohomish County Superior Court Memorandum of Understanding

DATE: October 17, 2023

TYPE: ACTION REQUIRED

In June of 2016, the State of Washington enacted House Bill 2449 and revised parts of the compulsory school attendance law, also known as The Becca Bill. The State Legislature has identified Community Engagement Boards (CEBs) as the preferred means to address truant behavior when preliminary methods to eliminate or reduce unexcused absences as required by RCW 28A.225.020 have not been effective in securing the child's attendance at school. The law requires juvenile courts and school districts to enter into a memorandum of understanding to address truant behavior. This memorandum outlines the roles of the District and of Snohomish County Superior Court.

Recommendation:

We recommend the board move to approve the Memorandum of Understanding with Snohomish County Superior Court.

Memorandum of Understanding
by and between
Snohomish County Superior Court
and
Stanwood-Camano School District

I. Overview

In June of 2016 the State of Washington enacted House Bill 2449 and revised parts of the compulsory school attendance law, also known as The Becca Bill. The State Legislature has identified Community Engagement Boards (CEBs) as the preferred means to address truant behavior when preliminary methods to eliminate or reduce unexcused absences as required by RCW 28A.225.020 have not been effective in securing the child's attendance at school. The law requires juvenile courts and school districts to enter into a memorandum of understanding to address truant behavior. Snohomish County Superior Court Juvenile Division and Stanwood-Camano School District wish to collaborate and coordinate their efforts to address truancy through the establishment of a community engagement board.

II. Purpose

The purpose of this memorandum of understanding is to set forth the roles and responsibilities of Stanwood-Camano School District and Snohomish County Superior Court-Juvenile Division to address truant behavior. Both parties agree that all obligations stated or implied in this agreement shall be consistent with federal and state laws, specifically Chapter 28A.225 RCW.

III. Authority

By resolution or delegation of authority to the respective administrators of the Stanwood-Camano School District and the Snohomish County Superior Court-Juvenile Division, both parties agree to fulfill the terms of this Memorandum of Understanding and the responsibilities listed in Section IV below. Modification of this agreement shall be made by mutual consent of both parties provided the agreed changes comply with federal and state laws. Such modifications shall be in writing and be signed by both consenting parties.

IV. Responsibilities of the Stanwood-Camano School District:

Stanwood-Camano School District's contact person(s) for truancy matters shall be identified for the presiding judge in writing by the school district superintendent and communicated to the presiding judge by first class U.S. Mail delivery. Changes in the appointment of a school district contact person(s) by the superintendent shall be promptly communicated to the presiding judge.

Stanwood-Camano School District intends to comply with chapter 28A.225 RCW, as outlined in Stanwood-Camano School District Board Policy 3121 and Procedure 3122P, which include procedures to address the following:

1. Inform students and parents/guardians of the compulsory education requirement under Chapter 28A.225 RCW
2. Notify parents/guardians of students who have unexcused absences
3. Notify parents/guardians and students of the potential consequences of continued unexcused absences
4. Schedule a conference with the parent and student
5. Implement and document steps to eliminate or reduce the youth's absences
6. File a truancy petition after seven unexcused absences in one month or ten unexcused absences in one school year
7. Enter into an agreement with the youth and parent
8. Perform a Washington Assessment of the Risks and Needs of Students (WARNS) assessment or an available researched based intervention.
9. Refer the student and parent/guardian to the community engagement

board V. Juvenile Court Responsibilities

The Snohomish County Superior Court-Juvenile Division shall:

1. Support and partner with school districts in the development and operation of CEBs
 - a. Sharing the model established by the collaborative efforts of court, school, and community representatives.
 - b. Providing training on how to run a CEB
 - c. Working with Stanwood-Camano School District personnel to "trouble shoot" issues with the CEB's operation
2. Provide support to facilitate scheduling of appointments and filing of petitions and other court records per RCW 28A.225.035
3. Provide ongoing and periodic training for school staff related to truancy issues.

VI. Term

This agreement shall be in effect as of the date the agreement is signed by both parties until no longer required by state law, or until amended or replaced by the parties, and shall be reviewed as needed by the designated school district contact person identified by the superintendent and the contact person identified by the presiding judge.

Date

Stanwood-Camano School District

Date

Presiding Judge or Designee for Snohomish County