

THE TRUANCY PETITION PROCESS

RCW 28.225.010, 28.225.020, Chapt. Law 1995 c 312 (66-69), and Chapt. Law 1996 c 134.

Absence is *excused*

→ Student is Absent *1*



Absence is *unexcused* *2*

Student has one unexcused absence in one month



School *shall* inform parents in writing or by phone of the potential consequences of additional unexcused absences



Student has two unexcused absences in one month



School *shall* schedule conference with parents and take steps to reduce absences *3*



Program adjusted



Remedial or individual instruction provided



Vocational education provided



Student referred to Community Truancy Board



Family helped to obtain service



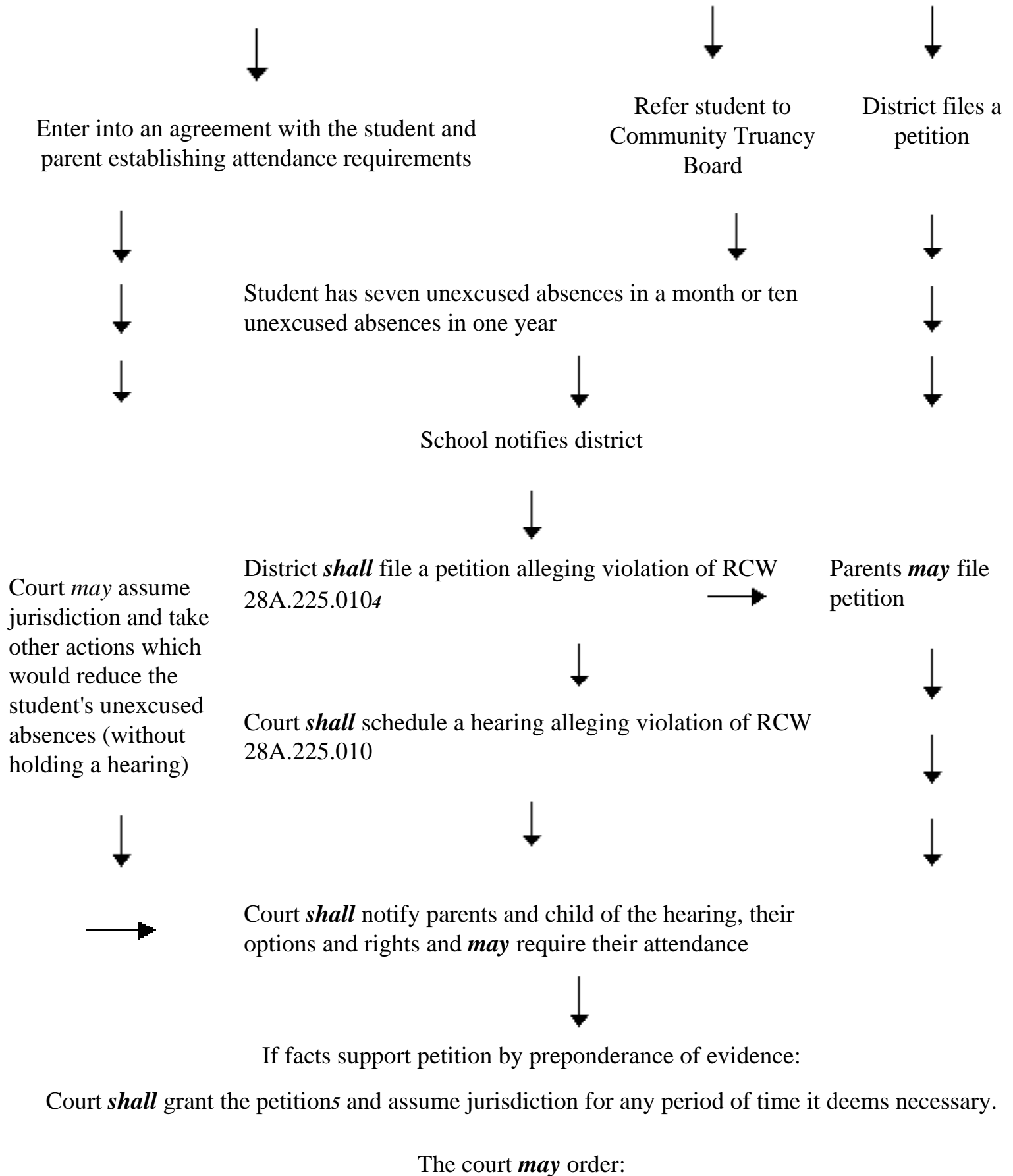
Alternative school or program may be required

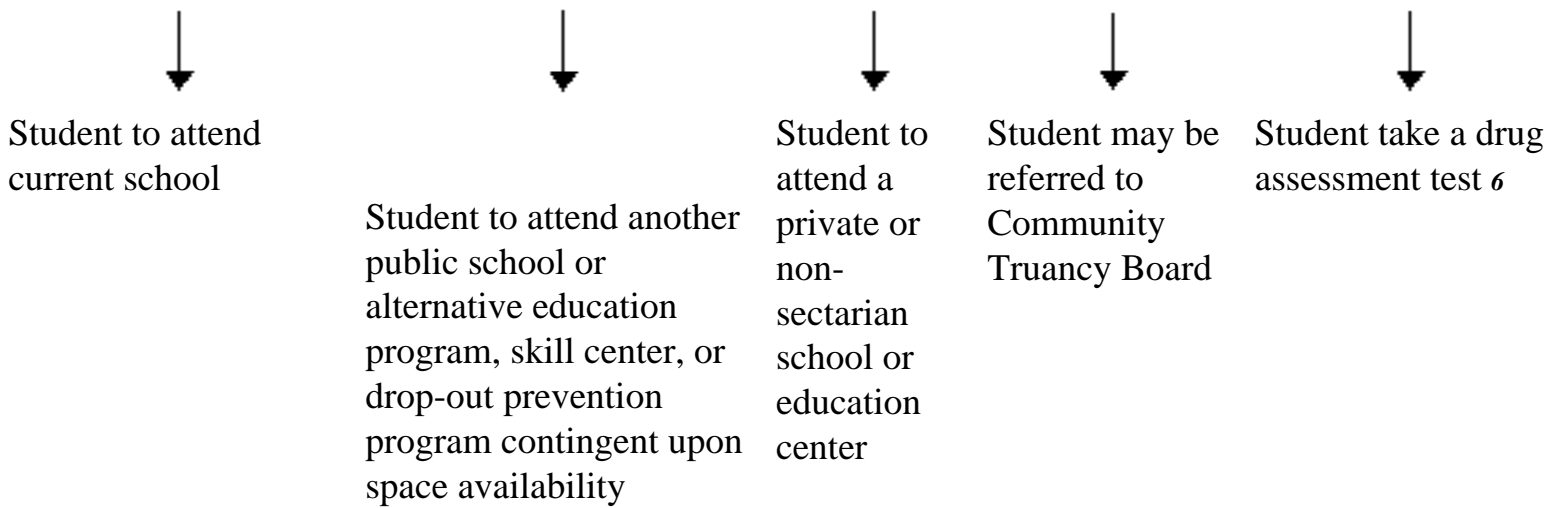


Student has five unexcused absences in one month



School *shall*





Student *fails* to attend school



School notifies district

District *shall* report to the court additional unexcused absences



District files a contempt motion in court that student violated the court order



Court schedules and holds a hearing to determine if the student violated the court order

—▶ Student *shall* receive legal representation, and parents *may* request legal representation



Court rules student/parent violated the court order and *may*:



Order student to report to county detention

Impose alternatives to detention such as community service

Order parent(s) to perform community service *or* pay fine up to \$25 a day for each unexcused absence 7

1 Ages of compulsory attendance are 8 to 18 (with exceptions). Schools must annually inform parents of the compulsory attendance requirements.

2 An unexcused absence means a student has failed to: 1) attend the majority of hours or periods in an average school day, or 2) comply with a more restrictive school district policy

3 If a parent does not attend, the conference may be held with the student and school official. The school must notify parents of the steps taken.

4 School district employee who is not an attorney may file the petition

5 Provided facts support petition by preponderance of evidence. School may also request a stay or dismissal. Courts shall also coordinate with Community Truancy Boards any actions pertaining to truancy, children in need of services (CHINS) and at-risk youth

6 RCW 28A.225.030.035