

5001
Compulsory Attendance and Excessive Absenteeism

Required Attendance

Every person residing in the school district who has legal or actual charge or control of any child who is of mandatory attendance age shall cause that child to attend a public or private school regularly unless the child has graduated from high school or has been disenrolled by the child’s parent or guardian.

Mandatory Attendance Age

All children who are or will turn six years old before January 1 of the current school year are of mandatory attendance age. Children who have not turned eighteen years of age are of mandatory attendance age.

Exceptions

This policy does not apply when (1) the services or earnings of a child are necessary for his or her own support or the support of those actually dependent upon him or her and the child is fourteen years of age or more and has completed the work of the eighth grade; or (2) when illness or severe weather conditions make attendance impossible or impracticable.

A child who will not reach age 7 before January 1 of the current school year may be excused from mandatory attendance if the child’s parent or guardian completes an affidavit affirming that alternative educational arrangements have been made for the child. A copy of the required affidavit is attached to this policy.

Discontinuing Enrollment

The board will allow any person with legal or actual charge or control of a child who is younger than seven years of age or who is at least 16 years of age to disenroll the child. The person seeking to discontinue the child’s enrollment shall submit a signed affidavit to the superintendent using the form which is attached to this policy. The school district, at the discretion of the administration, may require verification of the child’s age and the affiant’s authority to disenroll the child.

Attendance Officer

Each building principal is designated as an attendance officer for the district. Each building principal, at his or her discretion, may delegate these responsibilities to any other qualified individual. The attendance officer is responsible for enforcing the provisions of state law relating to compulsory attendance. This responsibility includes but is not limited to filing a report with the county attorney of the county in which a student resides when the student is absent more than twenty days per year or the hourly equivalent. Compensation for the duties of attendance officer is included in the salary for the superintendent or designee.

Absences Due to Documented Illness

Students who are unable to attend school due to documented illness that makes attendance impossible or impracticable, shall have their absences considered excused and the attendance officer will not report such students to the county attorney. “Documented illness” shall mean a health condition that prevents the student from safely attending school that has been confirmed by a written statement by the student’s health care provider.

Adopted on: _____

Revised on: 10/10/11

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