

Compulsory Attendance

To reach the goal of maximum educational benefits for every child requires a regular continuity of instruction, classroom participation, learning experiences, and study. Regular interaction of students with one another in classrooms and their participation in instructional activities under the tutelage of competent teachers are vital to the entire process of education. This established principle of education underlies and gives purpose to the requirement of compulsory schooling in every state in the nation. A student’s regular attendance also reflects dependability and is a significant component of a student’s permanent record.

Parents or legal guardians or legal custodians responsible for seeing that their children who are age seven (7) or older before the first (1st) day of school attendance until the later of the following dates:

1. Child’s sixteenth (16th) birthday; or
2. Completion date of the work of eighth (8th) grade.

The provisions above do not apply in the following cases:

- (a) The child has been excused under one of the conditions specified in 20-5-102.
- (b) The child is absent because of illness, bereavement or other reason prescribed by the policies of the trustees.
- (c) The child has been suspended or expelled under the provisions 20-5-202.
- (d) The child is excused pursuant Section 2 of 20-5-103.

Compulsory attendance stated above will not apply when children:

1. Are provided with supervised correspondence or home study; or
2. Are excused because of determination by a district judge that attendance is not in the best interest of the child; or
3. Are enrolled in a non-public or home school; or
4. Are enrolled in a school in another district or state; or
5. Are excused by the Board on a determination that attendance after age sixteen (16) is not in the best interests of the child or the school.

Legal Reference:	20-1-308, MCA	Religious instruction released time program
	20-5-101, MCA	Admittance of child to school
	20-5-102, MCA	Compulsory Enrollment and excuses
	20-5-103, MCA	Compulsory Attendance and excuses
	20-5-104, MCA	Attendance Officer
	20-5-106, MCA	Truancy
	20-5-108, MCA	Tribal agreement with district for Indian child compulsory attendance and other agreements

20-5-109, MCA	Nonpublic school requirements for compulsory enrollment exemption
20-5-202, MCA	Suspension and expulsion

Policy History:

Adopted on: June 28, 2004

Revised on: November 13, 2017