

Truancy

Under South Dakota Law, children between the ages of six years old by the first day of September and who have not exceeded the age of eighteen years old as of July 1, 2009 are of compulsory school age. Children who are of compulsory school age shall attend school regularly and annually in either a public school, private school, or home school for the entire school term as defined by state statute, unless excused as provided in State Statute.

It is the responsibility of every person having under their control a child of compulsory school age to see to the child's attendance at school until the child has reached the age of 18, unless excused. Any person who does not see to the school attendance of a child in their care will be guilty of a misdemeanor. The Bon Homme School Board shall annually appoint one or more Truancy Officers to enforce, under the School Board's direction, the Compulsory Attendance Laws within the district. If the Bon Homme School Board fails to appoint a Truancy Officer, the President of the Bon Homme School Board shall be the Truancy Officer and is responsible for the enforcement of the Compulsory Attendance Laws within the school district.

Students who have missed more than the maximum number of school days each semester as defined in the student handbook or the number of school days for an entire year may be subject to truancy. An accurate record of attendance will be maintained by the appropriate administrators at each site. The appropriate administrators will notify the parents/guardians either in writing or in person of the student's attendance record prior to the number of days of absence allowed each semester and/or the number of day's absence allowed per year. The Truancy Officer will also receive an attendance record from the appropriate administrator. The Truancy Officer will carefully check the attendance and nonattendance record of the student and may inform the School Board of the student's attendance and nonattendance record at the appropriate time.

The district Truancy Officer shall make and file Truancy complaints and any teacher, staff member, or citizen may make and file a Truancy complaint before the Circuit Court Judge.

Legal References: SDCL 13-27-1; 13-27-14; 13-27-16; 13-27-18 through 13-27-21; 13-27-28

Adopted: February 1999

Revised: December 8, 2008; July 9, 2012