

Title: Compulsory Attendance

Persons responsible for a child who has reached the age of six and is under sixteen years of age by September 15 or is otherwise of compulsory age shall have the student attend school each day that school is in session. A child who has reached the age of five by September 15 and who is enrolled in a school district shall be considered to be of compulsory attendance age unless the parent or guardian of the child notifies the school district in writing of the parent's or guardian's intent to remove the child from enrollment in the school district. A child who has reached the age of four by September 15 and who is enrolled in the statewide preschool program under chapter 256C shall be considered to be of compulsory attendance age unless the parent or guardian of the child submits written notice to the school district implementing the program of the parent's or guardian's intent to remove the child from enrollment in the preschool program.

The Board of Directors shall designate the appropriate attendance center. Transfers to other attendance centers shall follow procedures explained in 501.1.

Exceptions to compulsory attendance may include any child who:

1. Has completed the requirements for graduation in an accredited school or has obtained a high school equivalency diploma.
2. Is excused for sufficient reason by any court of record or judge.
3. Is attending religious services or receiving religious instruction, or has been exempted in accordance with the law regarding religious exemptions.
4. Is physically or mentally unable to attend school or whose presence in school would be
5. injurious to the health of other pupils.
6. Is attending an approved state school or institution.
7. Is attending an accredited non public school, or an accredited or probationally accredited private college preparatory school.
8. Is receiving competent private instruction or independent private instruction in accordance with the law.
9. Is under suspension or expulsion.
10. Is excused by the school administration.

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It is the responsibility of the parent, guardian or custodian to notify the school of absences. It is the responsibility of the school administrator to determine the status of an absence and to determine whether or not a student is truant or excused. A school administrator may require verification or evidence by the parent or guardian of the reason for the student's absence. For the safety of the students, school officials will make reasonable efforts to contact parents/guardians regarding absences that have not been reported by the parent, guardian or custodian.

The building attendance team or building administrator will review all absences to determine whether the absences are excessive or are interfering with the child's educational progress, and will provide interventions as needed. If excessive absences continue, the building administrator will refer the matter over to the attendance cooperation process and/or county attorney as provided by law. The principal may also refer a student with excessive excused absences to the attendance cooperation process and/or county attorney as provided by law.

The school will participate in mediation if requested by the county attorney. The District will monitor the student's compliance with the mediation agreement and will report violations of the mediation agreement to the County Attorney.

Cross References:

512, 516

Legal References:

Iowa Code Ch. 299, 299 IA

Approved: May 3, 1994

Reviewed: _____

Revised: May 23, 2006
March 22, 2011
May 10, 2016
March 28, 2017
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