

MANDATORY ATTENDANCE LAW

(O.C.G.A. § 20-2-690.1)

What are the basic provisions of the compulsory attendance law?

Every parent, guardian or other person residing within this state having control or charge of any child(ren) between their sixth and sixteenth birthdays must enroll and send such child(ren) to a public school, a private school or a home study program that meets requirements.

What is the penalty for being in violation of this law?

Any person in violation of this law is guilty of a misdemeanor and upon conviction shall be punished by a fine not to exceed \$100 (one hundred dollars) or imprisonment not to exceed 30 days, or both, at the discretion of the court having jurisdiction. Each day's absence from school in violation of this part shall constitute a separate offense.

What steps should a local school superintendent take when a violation occurs?

The law requires the local school superintendent to notify the parent or guardian of the child and then to report to the juvenile or other court having jurisdiction.