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3 **STUDENTS**

4  
5 Compulsory Attendance

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

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15 Parents or legal guardians are responsible for seeing that their children who are age seven (7) or  
16 older before the first (1<sup>st</sup>) day of school, attend school, until the later of the following dates:

- 17  
18 1. The child’s sixteenth (16th) birthday; or  
19 2. The date the child completes the eighth (8<sup>th</sup>) grade.  
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21 The provisions above do not apply to the following cases:

- 22  
23 a. The child has been excused under one of the conditions specified in §20-5-102, MCA.  
24 b. The child is absent because of illness, bereavement, or other reason prescribed by the  
25 policies of the Trustees.  
26 c. The child has been suspended or expelled under the provisions of §20-5-202, MCA.  
27 d. The child is excused pursuant to Section 2 of §20-5-103, MCA.  
28 e. The child is excused pursuant to §40-6-701(1) or Policy 2158.  
29

30 Compulsory attendance stated above will not apply when children:

- 31  
32 1. Are provided with supervised correspondence or home study; or  
33 2. Are excused because of a determination by a district judge that attendance is not in the  
34 best interests of the child; or  
35 3. Are enrolled in a non-public or home school; or  
36 4. Are enrolled in a school of another district or state; or  
37 5. Are excused by the Board on a determination that attendance after the age of sixteen (16)  
38 is not in the best interest of the child and the school.  
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40 Cross Reference:

- 41 Policy 2158 Family Engagement Policy  
42 Policy 3122 Attendance Policy  
43 Policy 3122R Attendance Notification  
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1	<u>Legal Reference:</u>	
2	§ 20-1-308, MCA	Religious Instruction Released Time Program
3	§ 20-5-101, MCA	Admittance of child to school
4	§ 20-5-102, MCA	Compulsory Enrollment and Excuses
5	§ 20-5-103, MCA	Compulsory Enrollment and Excuses
6	§ 20-5-104, MCA	Attendance Officer
7	§ 20-5-106, MCA	Truancy
8	§ 20-5-107, MCA	Incapacitated and Indigent Child Attendance
9	§ 20-5-108, MCA	Tribal Agreement with District for Indian Child Compulsory Attendance
10		and Other Agreements
11	§ 20-5-202, MCA	Suspension and Expulsion
12	§ 40-6-701(1), MCA	Parental Rights
13	Chapter 693 (2023)	Parental Rights
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15	<u>Policy History:</u>	
16	Adopted on:	July 1, 2000
17	Revised on:	January 26, 2015
18	Revised on:	September 11, 2023