

COMPULSORY SCHOOL ATTENDANCE AGES

Except as provided by law, every child in the state is required by state law to attend public or nonpublic school from the child's seventh (7th) birthday until his/her eighteenth (18th) birthday, unless the child graduates prior to his/her eighteenth (18th) birthday. Any child below the age of seven (7) who legally enrolls in school shall also be required to attend school. If a child in these age brackets was a resident of this parish when school opened and enters school late without having attended another public or nonpublic school or approved home study program during the current school session within or without the parish, a statement should be secured from the parents or guardian giving the reasons why the child has not been in school. If these reasons are not satisfactory, the matter should be referred to the Supervisor of Child Welfare and Attendance, who may find it necessary to refer it to the proper court.

Beginning with the 2022-2023 school year, the parent or legal guardian of a child who resides in Louisiana and who is age five (5) by September thirtieth of the calendar year in which the school year begins through eighteen (18) shall send the child to a public or nonpublic school, as defined by La. Rev. Stat. Ann. §17:236, unless the child's parent or legal guardian opted to defer enrollment of his/her child in kindergarten pursuant to La. Rev. Stat. Ann. §17:151.3(D) or the child graduates from high school prior to his/her eighteenth birthday. A child below the age of five (5) who legally enrolls in school shall also be subject to these provisions.

A child between the ages of seventeen (17) and eighteen (18) may withdraw from school prior to graduation with the written consent of his/her parent or guardian. Such consent must be submitted to the Superintendent or designee.

The parent, tutor or other person responsible for the school attendance of a child between the ages of sixteen (16) and eighteen (18) who is enrolled in school may request that the student be allowed to attend an alternative education program or a vocational-technical education program.

Compulsory attendance does not apply to any child who is under the age of seventeen (17) and is attending or seeking admission to a National Guard Youth Challenge Program in Louisiana.

FAILURE TO COMPLY

Failure to abide by the compulsory school attendance laws of the state may result in a referral to *Families in Need of Services* (FINS) which is a state mandated program or to the District Court with jurisdiction.

Revised: December, 2008
Revised: August, 2010
Revised: August, 2011
Revised: April 4, 2012
Revised: November, 2021

Ref: La. Rev. Stat. Ann. §§17:151.3, 17:221, 17:226, 17:226.1, 17:233; La. Children's Code, Art. 730; Bulletin 741, Louisiana Handbook for School Administrators, Louisiana Department of Education; Board minutes, 12-7-11, 4-4-12.