

Compulsory Attendance Ages - Procedures

The administration adopts the following rules and procedures to implement its policy regarding compulsory Attendance by school age children

General Attendance Requirements

Under state law, full-time school attendance is required of all children from their 7th to their 17th birthday except:

- A. A person who graduates from high school before that person's 17th birthday;
- B. A person who has:
 - 1. Reached the age of 15 years or completed the 9th grade;
 - 2. Permission to leave school from that person's parent/guardian; ;
 - 3. Been approved by the principal for a suitable program of work and study or training;
 - 4. Permission to leave school from the the Superintendent ; and
 - 5. Agreed in writing with that person's parent/guardian and the Superintendent to meet annually until that person's 17th birthday to review that person's educational needs. When the request to be excused from school has been denied pursuant to this paragraph, the student's parent/guardian may appeal to the Commissioner;
- C. A person whose absence is excused under section 5051. The parent of an habitual truant who has been denied a waiver of this paragraph may appeal to the Commissioner in accordance with section 5051, subsection 2, paragraph E (habitual truancy); or
- D. A person who has matriculated and is attending an accredited, post-secondary, degree-granting institution as a full-time student. An exception to attendance in public school under this paragraph must be approved by the Commissioner.

Secondary school students 20 years of age or more will only be admitted to the District with prior Board approval.

Alternatives to Attendance at Public Day School

A. Equivalent instruction alternatives are as follows:

1. A person shall be excused from attending a public day school if the person obtains equivalent instruction in:
 - a) A private school approved for attendance purposes pursuant to section 2901;
 - b) A private school recognized by the department as providing equivalent instruction;
 - c) A manner approved by the Commissioner pursuant to subparagraph (3); or
 - d) Any other manner arranged for by the Superintendent and approved by the Commissioner.
2. A student shall be credited with attendance at a private school only if a certificate showing the name, residence and attendance of the person at the school, signed by the person or persons in charge of the school, has been filed with the District .
3. A person who wishes to obtain approval of equivalent instruction under rules established by the Commissioner for home instruction (home schooling) shall simultaneously submit an application for approval to the Superintendent and to the Commissioner. The Superintendent may review the application and submit comments on the application to the Commissioner within 30 days of receipt of the application. Within 60 days of receipt of the application, the Commissioner, using state criteria established by rule, shall decide whether to approve the equivalent instruction application. If the Commissioner denies the application, the applicant may, within 30 days of receiving the denial, amend and resubmit the application directly to the Commissioner. The Commissioner shall make a decision within 30 days of receiving the amended application. If an application is approved, the Commissioner shall send notice of the approval to the Superintendent .

Notice provided to the District under this section relative to applications for and approval of equivalent instruction through home instruction is only for informational purposes. The District is not required to play any role in the application, review and approval or oversight of home instruction programs.

- B. A person may be excused from attendance at a public day school pursuant to §5104-A or § 8605 (other public or private alternative programs),

Excusable Absence

A person's absence is excused when the absence is for the following reasons:

- A. Personal illness;
- B. An appointment with a health professional that must be made during the regular school day;
- C. Observance of a recognized religious holiday when the observance is required during the regular school day;
- D. A family emergency; or
- E. A planned absence for a personal or educational purpose which has been approved. Each school shall develop a formal procedure for planned absences. The procedure will include: The student's responsibility to makeup assignments, parent/guardian approval, teacher review and notification, review of the building principal, and guidelines for when notice to parents/guardians regarding student performance is appropriate .

Cross Reference: JEA Compulsory Attendance Ages

Adopted: May 15, 2000