

### COMPULSORY ATTENDANCE AGES

Parents within the school district who have children over six and under sixteen years of age by September 15 in proper physical and mental condition to attend school will have the children attend the school district at the attendance center designated by the board. If a child enrolled in a school district or accredited nonpublic school reaches the age of sixteen on or after September 15, the child remains of compulsory age until the end of the regular school calendar. Students will attend school the number of hours school is in session in accordance with the school calendar. Students of compulsory attendance age will attend school a minimum of 1080 hours. Students not attending the minimum hours must be exempted by this policy as listed below or, referred to the county attorney. Exceptions to this policy include children who:

- have completed the requirements for graduation in an accredited school or have obtained a high school equivalency diploma;
- are attending religious services or receiving religious instruction;
- are attending an approved or probationally approved private college preparatory school;
- are attending an accredited nonpublic school;
- are receiving independent private instruction or,
- are receiving competent private instruction from a parent, guardian, or legal custodian.

It is the responsibility of the parent of a child to provide evidence of the child's mental and physical inability to attend school or of the child's qualifications for one of the exceptions listed above.

The principal will investigate the cause for a student's truancy. If the principal is unable to secure the truant student's attendance, the principal should discuss the next step with the school board. If after school board action the student is still truant, the principal will refer the matter over to the county attorney.

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

Legal Reference:

Iowa Code §§ 259A; 279.10-.11; ch. 299; 299A (2013).

441 I.A.C. 41.25(8).

1978 Op. Att'y. Gen. 379.

Cross Reference:

501 Student Attendance

601.1 School Calendar

604.1 Competent Private Instruction

Approved: December 16, 1991

Revised: April 13, 1998

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