

COMPULSORY ATTENDANCE

The District requires daily school attendance by students. It is the parents/guardians responsibility to have children of compulsory age attend school one hundred eighty days (180) according to the District's school calendar, including the daily time schedule. A child who has reached the age of six and is under sixteen years of age by September 15 is of compulsory attendance age. The parent, guardian, or legal or actual custodian of a child who is of compulsory attendance age shall cause the child to attend the public school designated by the Board, an accredited non-public school, or competent private instruction. The District also requires appropriate documentation on immunizations and a birth certificate. Exemptions to the attendance requirement apply to any child:

- (a) who has completed the requirements for graduation in an accredited school or has obtained a high school equivalency diploma under Chapter 259A;
- (b) who is excused for sufficient reason by any court of record;
- (c) while attending religious services or receiving religious instructions;
- (d) who is attending a private college preparatory school accredited or probationally accredited under the provisions of subsection 256.11(13);
- (e) who has been excused under section 299.22; and
- (f) who is exempted under section 299.24 (299.2).

Under certain circumstances, religious groups may be exempted from compulsory education law and educational standards law.

The parent, guardian or legal or actual custodian of a child who is of compulsory attendance age, who is physically or mentally unable to attend school, or whose presence in school would be injurious to the health of other pupils, shall furnish proofs by certificate under sections 256B.6 as to the physical or mental condition of the child.

Students who are absent and have no reasonable excuse shall be subject to disciplinary measures. The measures may include, but are not limited to, short or long-term suspension, expulsion, or referral to Juvenile Court, County Attorney, and/or other agencies. A student, absent without permission, is considered truant. Truant means the student failed to attend school and the reason(s) given was/were not justified. The building principal or his/her designee will investigate the cause for the student's truancy. The building principal will utilize all available

resources, including the school board and legal intervention to correct truancy situations. Parents/guardians of students not regularly attending school may be referred to the County Attorney for prosecution.

Attendance rules and procedures to implement this policy shall exist for each level of the District to describe absence, tardy, and truant.

Each Principal shall ensure that adequate attendance records are kept, and that required attendance reports are made to the Superintendent's office as requested.

LEGAL REFERENCE: 281 Iowa Admin. Code 12.2(4),(5), and 12.3(8).
Iowa Code Chapter 282; Chapter 299, Chapter 139; 670 Iowa
Admin. Code 3.2(12); 281 Iowa Admin. Code 12.2(4); 12.3(8)

Adopted: 07/12/88

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