

COMPULSORY ATTENDANCE

Parents within the school district who have children over age six and under age sixteen 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. Students will attend school the number of days or hours school is in session in accordance with the school calendar. Students of compulsory attendance age will attend school a minimum of 180 days or 1,080 hours. Students not attending the minimum days or hours must be exempted by this policy as listed below or, referred to the county attorney. Exceptions to this policy include children who:

- (a) have completed the requirements for graduation in an accredited school or have obtained a high school equivalency diploma;
- (b) are attending religious services or receiving religious instructions;
- (c) are attending an approved or probationally approved private college preparatory school;
- (d) are attending an accredited nonpublic school;
- (e) are receiving independent private instruction; or,
- (f) are receiving competent private instruction.

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: Iowa Code §§ 259A; 279.10-.11; ch. 299; 299A.

Adopted: 07/12/88

Revised: 09/26/03, 05/01/09, 02/22/21

Reviewed: 05/10/04, 12/22/14, 09/23/19