

Code No. 501.3

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 1080 hours. Students not attending the minimum days or hours must be exempted by this policy as listed below or, for students in grades 7-12, referred to the county attorney or, for students in grades K-6, referred to the Attendance Cooperation process. 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; or,
- are receiving independent private instruction; or,
- are receiving competent private instruction.

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 or other school official shall investigate the cause for a student's absence(s). If the school official is unable to secure the student's appropriate attendance, the school official shall refer the matter over to the county attorney for students below the compulsory attendance age.

The school will participate in mediation if requested by the county attorney. The superintendent, or designee, 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 §§ 239.5B; 259A; 279.10-.11; ch. 299;

Cross Reference: 601.1 School Calendar
604.1 Private Instruction

Adopted: 07/21/2003
Revised: 03/11/2024
Reviewed: 03/11/2024