

Alaska

■ **COMPULSORY EDUCATION LAW**

TERMS: With few exceptions, every child between 7 and 16 years of age must attend public school during the school term. Every parent or other person having responsibility for or control of a child between the ages of 7 and 16 must see that the child is not absent without valid reason.

ENFORCEMENT: This law is enforced by the state district courts, in response to complaints filed by the local schools.

Arizona

■ **COMPULSORY SCHOOL ATTENDANCE LAW**

TERMS: In general, every person who has custody of a child between the ages of 6 and 16 must send the child to a public school for the full time school is in session in the school district in which the child is living. Among other exceptions, this requirement does not apply in cases where the child is over 14 years of age and is legally employed with the consent of his or her parent or guardian.

ENFORCEMENT: These provisions are enforced by the local school districts.

Arkansas

■ **COMPULSORY SCHOOL ATTENDANCE LAW**

TERMS: With few exceptions, every parent or other person living in Arkansas and having custody of a child 5 through 17 years of age must send the child to a public, private, parochial or home school.

ENFORCEMENT: These provisions are enforced by the local school districts.

California

■ **COMPULSORY EDUCATION LAW**

TERMS: With few exceptions, every person between the ages of 6 and 18 must attend a public school (or a private school which meets state standards) for the full length of the school day. Further, if a minor withdraws from school at age 16, he or she must be enrolled in a continuation education program. It is the responsibility of the parent, guardian or other person in control of a school-age child to see that the child attends if required by law.

ENFORCEMENT: These provisions are enforced by the local school districts and local peace officers.

Colorado

■ **SCHOOL ATTENDANCE LAW OF 1963**

TERMS: To the same extent as other parents, farmworkers with a child who is 6 to 16 years of age must see that the child attends a public school, or receives approved comparable instruction, for the full school year.

ENFORCEMENT: The School Attendance Law is enforced by the local school districts, through attendance officers employed for that purpose.

Connecticut

■ **SCHOOL ATTENDANCE AND CHILD EMPLOYMENT LAW**

TERMS: Each parent or other person having control of a child who is at least 5 years of age but not yet 18 must see that the child regularly attends a public day school during the hours and terms that the local public schools are in session, unless the parent or guardian can show that the child is receiving equivalent instruction elsewhere.

Employers are prohibited from employing any child under 14 during the hours when the school the child should be attending is in session.

ENFORCEMENT: These provisions are enforced by the local school boards, through attendance officers appointed for that purpose.

Delaware

■ **COMPULSORY SCHOOL ATTENDANCE LAW**

TERMS: Regardless of occupational status, every person in the state who has control of a child between the ages of 5 and 16 is generally required to send the child to a public school in the district where the child's parents are living, for the entire length of the school term.

ENFORCEMENT: These provisions are enforced by local school superintendents, local law enforcement officers, and justices of the peace.

Florida

■ **COMPULSORY SCHOOL ATTENDANCE LAW**

TERMS: With few exceptions, all children who have reached the age of 6 years but are not yet 16 are required to attend school regularly during the entire school term. The law makes the parent of such a child responsible for the child's attendance.

ENFORCEMENT: These provisions are enforced by local school superintendents.

Georgia

■ **COMPULSORY ATTENDANCE LAW**

TERMS: With few exceptions, every parent or other resident of the state who has control of any child between the ages of 6 and 16 must enroll and send the child to a public school, a private school, or a home study program that meets state educational requirements.

ENFORCEMENT: This law is enforced by local boards of education and their respective superintendents, in cooperation with local peace officers.

Hawaii

■ **COMPULSORY SCHOOL ATTENDANCE LAW**

TERMS: With only a few exceptions, all children in Hawaii who, on or before July 31 of any school year, will have reached the age of 5 or older, but will not have reached age 18 by January 1 of that school year, are required to attend either a public or private school during that school year. Any parent or other person responsible for such a child must see that the child attends school as required.

ENFORCEMENT: *Hawaii State Department of Education, Honolulu, Hawaii 96813 (808-305-9787)*. Local police officers may also enforce these provisions.

Idaho

■ SCHOOL ATTENDANCE LAWS

TERMS: With certain limited exceptions, the parent or guardian of any child living in Idaho who has reached the age of 7 at the start of school in the local district, but has not reached the age of 16, must assure that the child attends a public, private or parochial school, or receives approved equivalent instruction, for a period of time equivalent to the length of the public school year.

ENFORCEMENT: These provisions are enforced by the local school boards, in cooperation with county probation officers.

Illinois

■ **COMPULSORY SCHOOL ATTENDANCE LAWS**

TERMS: With only limited exceptions, whoever has custody or control of any child who has reached the age of 6 on or before September 1 and is not over the age of 17 must see that the child attends a local public school (or a private school providing comparable instruction) for the entire time it is in session during the regular school term.

ENFORCEMENT: These provisions are enforced by school districts and regional school superintendents, through truant officers and other designated authorities.

Indiana

■ **COMPULSORY SCHOOL ATTENDANCE LAW**

TERMS: With few exceptions, each child who is at least 7 years of age and has not reached the age of 18 must attend either a public school or some other school which is taught in the English language, for the period of time each year during which the local public schools are in session. It is unlawful for a parent to fail to ensure that his or her child attends school as required.

ENFORCEMENT: This law is enforced by attendance officers employed by the local school districts.

Iowa

■ **COMPULSORY EDUCATION LAW**

TERMS: In general, any person who has control of a child over 6 and under 16 years of age, in proper physical and mental condition to attend school, must see that the child attends public school, or place the child in an approved private school, during the locally designated school year.

ENFORCEMENT: These provisions are enforced by the state's local school boards, through truancy officers and other attendance personnel.

Kansas

■ **COMPULSORY SCHOOL ATTENDANCE LAW**

TERMS: With few exceptions, every parent or guardian having control of any child in Kansas who has reached the age of 7 years, but who is under the age of 18, must ensure that the child attends a public school for the full prescribed school term, or a private, denominational or parochial school taught by a competent instructor for a substantially equivalent period of time.

ENFORCEMENT: This law is enforced at the local level by the state's local school boards. Each school board must designate one or more attendance officers, who are responsible for monitoring compliance with the compulsory attendance law.

Whenever a child under the age of 13 is not attending school as required, the local attendance officer generally must report the case to the *Kansas Department for Children and Families, Topeka, Kansas 66612 (785-296-3271)*.

Cases of non-attendance by children 13 years of age and older are reported to the appropriate county or district attorney.

Kentucky

■ **COMPULSORY ATTENDANCE LAW**

TERMS: In general, every parent, guardian or other person living in Kentucky and having control of a child who is at least 6 years of age, but who has not reached the age of 18, is required to send the child to a public school for the full school term. This requirement applies even if the child's residence in Kentucky is seasonal or the child's parent or guardian is a resident of another state.

ENFORCEMENT: The school attendance law is enforced by the local public school districts.

Louisiana

■ **COMPULSORY SCHOOL ATTENDANCE LAW**

TERMS: In general, every parent or other person living in Louisiana and having control of a child between the ages of 7 and 18 must send the child to a public or private day school and assure that the child attends during regular school hours. Children in this age range may not be excused from school to work at any time in any job, including agriculture, even in the employ of their own parents.

Among other exceptions, 16- and 17-year-olds may withdraw from school to enroll in an alternative education program or vocational-technical education program, on application by their parent or legal guardian to the local school district.

ENFORCEMENT: School attendance is enforced locally by parish and city school boards, and by district family or juvenile courts. At the state level, enforcement is supervised by the *Louisiana Department of Education, Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70804 (225-219-5172; toll-free 877-453-2721)*.

Maine

■ **COMPULSORY ATTENDANCE LAW**

TERMS: Persons who are 7 years of age or older, but who are under the age of 17, generally must attend a public day school (or obtain state-approved equivalent instruction) during the time school is in regular session. Farmworkers and all other adults having a child within this age group under their control must see that the child attends school as required.

ENFORCEMENT: These provisions are enforced by local school boards.

Maryland

■ **COMPULSORY ATTENDANCE LAW**

TERMS: Each child who lives in Maryland, and who is at least 5 years old but has not yet reached age 17 (age 18 beginning July 1, 2017), must regularly attend a public school during the entire school year, unless the child is receiving state-approved equivalent instruction. Any person who has such a child in his or her control must see that the child meets the school attendance requirement.

ENFORCEMENT: These provisions are enforced through the courts, by the county school boards, school superintendents, and local law enforcement agencies.

Massachusetts

■ SCHOOL ATTENDANCE LAW

TERMS: In general, every child between the ages of 6 and 16 who lives in Massachusetts must attend a public school, or receive approved private instruction, during the entire regular school year. Every person who has control of any such child must make sure that the child attends school as required.

ENFORCEMENT: These provisions are enforced in the courts, through local attendance supervisors employed by the respective school committees.

Michigan

■ **REVISED SCHOOL CODE (*COMPULSORY SCHOOL ATTENDANCE*)**

TERMS: In general, every parent, guardian or other person in Michigan having control of a child from the age of 6 to the child's 16th birthday must send the child to a public school, or to an approved non-public school or home school, during the entire school year.

ENFORCEMENT: These provisions are enforced by school attendance officers and other local school personnel.

Minnesota

■ SCHOOL ATTENDANCE LAWS

TERMS: Every child between 7 and 17 years of age must attend a qualified public or private school during the entire time the school is in session during the school year, unless the child has graduated or is excused from attendance by the local school board.

ENFORCEMENT: These provisions are enforced by district school superintendents.

Mississippi

■ **MISSISSIPPI COMPULSORY SCHOOL ATTENDANCE LAW**

TERMS: The parent or guardian of any child who has reached the age of 6 on or before September 1 of any year, but is under the age of 17 by that date, must enroll the child in a public school or an approved non-public school for the ensuing school year, and assure that the child attends.

ENFORCEMENT: *Office of Compulsory School Attendance Enforcement, Mississippi Department of Education, Jackson, Mississippi 39205 (601-359-3178).* The Compulsory School Attendance Law is enforced by school attendance officers employed and supervised by the Department.

Missouri

■ **COMPULSORY ATTENDANCE LAW**

TERMS: Every parent, guardian or other person having custody or control of a child between the ages of 7 and 17 is responsible for assuring the child's regular attendance at a public, private, parochial, parish or home school, for the entire length of the school term.

ENFORCEMENT: The local school districts are responsible for enforcing this law, through school attendance officers or similar officials appointed for that purpose.

Montana

■ **COMPULSORY ENROLLMENT AND ATTENDANCE LAW**

TERMS: Any parent or other person responsible for the care of a child who is 7 years of age or older, and who has not reached the age of 16 and has not completed the 8th grade, must enroll the child in a public school (or an allowed alternative) and see that the child attends.

ENFORCEMENT: These provisions are enforced by attendance officers employed by the local school districts.

Nebraska

■ **COMPULSORY EDUCATION LAW**

TERMS: In general, every person who has control of a child who will reach the age of 6 by January 1 of the current school year, but who has not reached age 18, must ensure that the child regularly attends an approved public, private, denominational or parochial day school each day the school is open and in session that year.

ENFORCEMENT: This law is enforced by city and county school districts, through attendance officers employed for that purpose.

Nevada

■ **COMPULSORY ATTENDANCE LAW**

TERMS: Each parent or other person having control of a child between the ages of 7 and 18 must send the child to a public school (or its equivalent) for the entire school term.

ENFORCEMENT: This law is enforced by the local school boards, through attendance officers appointed for that purpose.

New Hampshire

■ **COMPULSORY SCHOOL ATTENDANCE LAWS**

TERMS: With few exceptions, every child who has reached the age of 6 before September 30 in a particular school year, but who is not yet 18, must attend a public or approved private school throughout the time the public schools are in session that year. A person having custody of such a child must see that the child attends school during the entire school year.

ENFORCEMENT: These provisions are enforced by the local school boards.

New Jersey

■ **COMPULSORY EDUCATION LAWS**

TERMS: Every parent, guardian or other person having custody and control of a child between the ages of 6 and 16 years must assure that the child regularly attends public school, or receives equivalent instruction, during the entire time the public schools in the local district are in session.

ENFORCEMENT: These provisions are enforced by the local school districts, through attendance officers employed for that purpose, assisted by city and county law enforcement officers.

New Mexico

■ **COMPULSORY SCHOOL ATTENDANCE LAW**

TERMS: With some exceptions, every child who has reached the age of 5 prior to September 1 in a given school year, but who is not yet 18 and has not graduated from high school, must attend a public school, charter or private school, home school, or state institution for the entire school year. The parent or other person having custody and control of the child is responsible for the child's school attendance.

ENFORCEMENT: These provisions are enforced by the public school boards and by governing authorities of the state's charter and private schools.

New York

■ **COMPULSORY EDUCATION LAW**

TERMS: With very limited exceptions, every child from 6 to 16 years of age living in any school district in the state must attend a public school or receive substantially equivalent full-time instruction. The parent or other person having control over such a child is responsible for the child's attendance.

In general, no child may be employed during the hours when the child is required to be in school under this law. Employment of a minor under 16 in work on a farm is prohibited at any other time as well, unless the child has been issued an employment certificate or farm work permit by the local school district. To obtain a farm work permit, the minor must present evidence of age, the written permission of the minor's parent or guardian, and a certificate of physical fitness.

ENFORCEMENT: These provisions are enforced by the local school districts, and by the *New York State Education Department, Albany, New York 12234 (518-474-5844)*.

North Carolina

■ **COMPULSORY ATTENDANCE LAW**

TERMS: Every parent or other person having control of a child between the ages of 7 and 16 years must assure the child's continuous attendance at an approved public or private school for the entire length of the public school session.

ENFORCEMENT: This law is enforced by the local schools.

North Dakota

■ SCHOOL ATTENDANCE LAW

TERMS: In general, every parent or other person who lives in North Dakota and has control over a child 7 to 16 years of age must send the child to a public or approved non-public school for the entire length of the public school session.

ENFORCEMENT: The school attendance law is enforced by the teachers and administrators of the local school districts.

Ohio

■ SCHOOL ATTENDANCE LAWS

TERMS: With few exceptions, the parent or guardian of any child between 6 and 18 years of age who is not employed under an age and schooling certificate must send the child to a school that meets minimum state standards, for the full time the school is in session.

During the regular school term, an age and schooling certificate may be issued only to a child over the age of 16 who has completed certain educational or vocational requirements.

These provisions apply even if the child's stay in Ohio is seasonal, the parent is a resident of another state, or the child has attended school for the legal period in another state.

ENFORCEMENT: The school attendance requirement is enforced by the local school boards, through attendance officers employed for that purpose.

Oklahoma

■ OKLAHOMA SCHOOL CODE (*COMPULSORY ATTENDANCE*)

TERMS: With few exceptions, every parent, guardian or other person having control of a child who is over the age of 5 and under the age of 18, and who has not finished four years of high-school work, must see that the child attends a public, private or other school.

ENFORCEMENT: This provision is enforced by local school attendance officers.

Oregon

■ **COMPULSORY SCHOOL ATTENDANCE LAW**

TERMS: In general, every child between the ages of 6 and 18 who has not completed the 12th grade must regularly attend a public full-time school in the district in which the child is living, or receive equivalent private or parochial school instruction. Anyone who has control of such a child is responsible for the child's regular school attendance.

Among other exceptions, 16- and 17-year-olds who are lawfully employed full-time, or who are employed part-time and in school part-time, may be excused from this requirement.

ENFORCEMENT: These provisions are enforced by attendance supervisors employed by the local school districts.

Pennsylvania

■ PUBLIC SCHOOL CODE OF 1949 (*COMPULSORY SCHOOL ATTENDANCE*)

TERMS: In general, every child living in Pennsylvania who is at least 8 years old but not yet 17 is required to attend a day school. Every parent or other person having control of such a child is legally responsible for sending the child to school for the entire local public school term.

Exceptions — The compulsory attendance law *does not apply* to (1) a child 14 years of age who is employed in agriculture under a valid work permit issued by the local school district and who has satisfactorily completed the elementary grades, or (2) a child age 15 or over who is employed in farmwork under a work permit, regardless of educational attainment.

ENFORCEMENT: The school attendance laws are enforced by the local school districts, through attendance officers employed for that purpose.

Puerto Rico

■ **CHILD LABOR LAWS (*COMPULSORY SCHOOL ATTENDANCE*)**

TERMS: Every parent or other person having charge of a minor under 16 years of age must assure the child's regular attendance at a public or private school during regular school hours and for the entire length of the public school term, unless the child is found to be mentally unfit to attend and is excused by the school supervisor.

ENFORCEMENT: *Bureau of Labor Standards, Puerto Rico Department of Labor and Human Resources, Hato Rey, Puerto Rico 00918 (787-754-2100).*

■ **COMPULSORY ATTENDANCE LAW**

TERMS: With few exceptions, all children between the ages of 8 and 14 must be enrolled in a public school located within a reasonable distance of their home.

ENFORCEMENT: The compulsory attendance law is enforced at the local level by teachers, supervising principals and social workers.

Whenever informal efforts to enforce attendance are unsuccessful, local authorities may notify the *Department of Family, San Juan, Puerto Rico 00917 (800-981-8333).*

Rhode Island

■ **COMPULSORY ATTENDANCE LAW**

TERMS: With only limited exceptions, every child in Rhode Island who has reached the age of 6 but is not yet 18 must regularly attend a public day school, an approved private school, or an approved course of instruction at home, during the days and hours the local public schools are in session. It is the legal duty of every person who has control of such a child to see that the child regularly attends school or its approved equivalent.

ENFORCEMENT: These provisions are enforced by the local public school committees.

South Carolina

■ **COMPULSORY ATTENDANCE LAW**

TERMS: Except for children who have completed the 8th grade and whose employment has been found by a court to be necessary for the support of their family, all children 5 through 16 years of age must attend an approved public, private, parochial or denominational school, or an approved alternative educational program.

It is the duty of the parent or guardian of each such child to see that the child complies with this requirement.

ENFORCEMENT: These provisions are enforced by the local school boards.

South Dakota

■ **COMPULSORY SCHOOL ATTENDANCE LAW**

TERMS: With few exceptions, every person in charge of a child who is at least 6 years of age must assure that the child regularly attends some public or non-public school for the entire term during which the local public schools are in session, until the child has graduated or reaches the age of 18.

ENFORCEMENT: The school attendance law is enforced by local school boards, through truancy officers employed by each board for that purpose.

Tennessee

■ SCHOOL ATTENDANCE LAWS

TERMS: With only limited exceptions, every parent or other person living in Tennessee and having control of a child between the ages of 6 and 17 must see that the child attends a public or non-public school.

ENFORCEMENT: These provisions are enforced by the local school districts.

Texas

■ **COMPULSORY SCHOOL ATTENDANCE LAWS**

TERMS: In general, every child in Texas who has reached the age of 6 but has not yet reached the age of 19 is required to attend a public school each school day for the entire period the program of instruction is provided, or attend a private or parochial school whose curriculum includes good citizenship.

Among other narrow exceptions, the requirement to attend school does not apply to a child who (1) is at least 17 years old and has received a high school diploma or GED certificate, or (2) is at least 16 years old and is enrolled in an approved high school diploma program or GED preparation program.

ENFORCEMENT: These provisions are enforced by school attendance officers appointed by the state's local school boards or superintendents, and by local peace officers.

Utah

■ **COMPULSORY EDUCATION LAW**

TERMS: Every person having control of a child between 6 and 18 years of age is required to send the child to a public or private school — or request an exemption allowing the child to be home-schooled — during the school year of the district where the child lives.

Among other exceptions, a local school board may partially excuse from the attendance requirement a minor over the age of 16 who has completed the 8th grade, to allow the child to enter employment or attend a trade school while attending school part-time.

ENFORCEMENT: These provisions are enforced by the local school boards.

Vermont

■ **COMPULSORY ATTENDANCE LAW**

TERMS: With few exceptions, every person having control of a child between the ages of 6 and 16 must assure that the child attends a public school, an approved independent school or education program, or a home study program, for the full number of days for which the school or program is held.

ENFORCEMENT: These provisions are enforced by truant officers appointed by the local school boards, and by local peace officers.

Virginia

■ **COMPULSORY SCHOOL ATTENDANCE LAW**

TERMS: In general, every parent or other person in control of a child who has reached the age of 5 by September 30 in any school year, but who is not yet 18, must send the child to a public, private, denominational or parochial school, or have the child privately taught or tutored, during the entire period in which the public schools are in session, and for the same number of days and hours.

However, the parents of a child who is 5 years old by September 30 may be excused from this requirement if they notify the local school board that they do not want the child to attend school until the following year.

ENFORCEMENT: These provisions are enforced locally by school attendance officers appointed for that purpose by the local school boards.

Washington

■ **COMPULSORY SCHOOL ATTENDANCE LAW**

TERMS: In general, the parent or legal guardian of any child who is at least 8 years old but under 18 must see that the child attends a public school in the district where the child is living, for the full length of the school term, unless the child is attending an approved private school or is receiving approved home-based instruction.

Among other exceptions, children 16 years old and over who have met certain educational requirements, and are regularly and legally employed with the permission of their parents, are exempt from the compulsory attendance requirement.

ENFORCEMENT: The compulsory school attendance law is enforced by the local school districts, through attendance officers and other school personnel appointed for that purpose.

West Virginia

■ **COMPULSORY SCHOOL ATTENDANCE LAW**

TERMS: In general, every child in West Virginia who has reached the age of 6 by September 1 in any school year, but who is not yet 17, is required to attend public school or receive equivalent instruction in an approved private or parochial school or at home.

Anyone who fails to assure the attendance of a school-age child in his or her custody is guilty of a criminal offense.

ENFORCEMENT: These provisions are enforced by county attendance directors employed for that purpose by the county boards of education.

Wisconsin

■ **COMPULSORY SCHOOL ATTENDANCE LAWS**

TERMS: Any person having control of a child between the ages of 6 and 18 must see that the child regularly attends a public or private school for the full period and during all hours that the school is in session, until the child graduates from high school, until the end of the term in which the child reaches the age of 18, or unless the local school board excuses the child from attendance.

ENFORCEMENT: These provisions are enforced by school attendance officers designated by the local school boards.

Wyoming

■ **COMPULSORY ATTENDANCE LAW**

TERMS: With few exceptions, every parent or other person having control of any child who is a resident of Wyoming and at least 7 years of age on September 15 of any school year, but who has not reached the age of 16 or completed the 10th grade, is required to send the child to a public or private school that year for the entire time that the local public schools are in session.

ENFORCEMENT: These provisions are enforced by attendance officers appointed by the local school boards.