

COMPULSORY ATTENDANCE

In order to support students in attaining their highest levels of success, the Board recognizes the importance of attendance at school.

Under State law, full-time school attendance is required of all children from their 7th to their 17th birthday except:

- A. A person who graduates from high school before their 17th birthday;
- B. A person who has met all of the following criteria:
 - 1. Reached the age of 15 years or completed the 9th grade;
 - 2. Permission to leave school from that person's parent;
 - 3. Been approved by the principal for a suitable program of work and study or training;
 - 4. Permission to leave school from the Board or its designee; and
 - 5. Agreed in writing with that person's parent and the Board or its designee to meet annually until that person's 17th birthday to review that person's educational needs. When the request to be excused from school has been denied pursuant to this paragraph, the student's parent may appeal to the Commissioner; or
- C. A person who has matriculated and is attending an accredited, post-secondary, degree-granting institution as a full-time student. An exception to the attendance in public school under this paragraph must be approved by the Commissioner.

Alternatives to Attendance at Public Day School

- A. Equivalent instruction alternatives are as follows:
 - 1. A person shall be excused from attending a public day school if the person obtains equivalent instruction in:
 - a. A private school approved for attendance purposes pursuant to 20-A MRSA § 2901;
 - b. A private school recognized by the Department as providing equivalent instruction;
 - c. A home instruction program that complies with the requirements of 20-A MRSA § 5001-A (3) (A) (4); or

a student who is out of school for 10 or more consecutive school days as a result of a planned absence for a reason such as a family event or a medical absence for planned hospitalization or recovery.

Parents are responsible for the school attendance of students who are under 17 years of age. Schools shall work with students and families in an effort to ensure compliance.

Secondary school students 20 years of age or more will only be admitted to the school unit with prior Board approval.

Legal Reference: ***20-A MRSA § 5001-A; 5003; 5201***
Ch. 125 § 8.06 (Maine Dept. of Ed. Rules)

Cross Reference: ***IHBGA – Equivalent Instruction Through Home Instruction***
JFC - Student Withdrawal From School/Dropout Prevention Committee
JHB - Truancy

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