

STUDENTS

ADMISSION AND ATTENDANCE

§8-14 Compulsory AttendanceA. General

A student is entitled to a free, public education under the laws of the Commonwealth. To obtain the benefits of this free education, however, a student must be in regular attendance.

The School Board fully endorses the concept of compulsory attendance, in a free, public system of education where the cost of a student's education is borne by the general citizenry. The Board has therefore adopted an attendance policy which sets forth absences which may be excused by a principal and provides that appropriate disciplinary action be taken when students have unexcused absences, are truant, or are tardy. The Board also provides an attendance officer to investigate violations of the compulsory attendance law and enforce its provisions.

B. Ages

The Virginia compulsory attendance law requires that every child who has reached the age of five years on or before September 30 of the school year and has not reached the age of eighteen shall regularly attend school unless exempt by law or excused by the School Board as provided in §8-18 of these policies.

C. Duty of Parent

Parents, guardians, or other persons having control of the child are charged with the duty of causing the child to attend school or receive instruction as provided by the law.

D. Kindergarten Exemptions

1. Any child who has not reached the age of six years by September 30 whose parent or guardian notifies the School Board that he/she does not wish the child to attend school until the following year because the child, in the opinion of the parent or guardian, is not mentally, physically, or emotionally prepared to attend school, may delay the child's attendance for one year.

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2. Any child who enrolls in kindergarten and is later withdrawn until the following year by the School Board upon recommendation of the principal and with the consent of the child's parent or guardian is exempted from compulsory attendance.

E. Nonresident Children

Children who are nonresidents of the State of Virginia but who are temporarily living with relatives or others in Loudoun County for a period of sixty days or more are required by state law to attend school. Persons having charge of such children must cause them to attend school and must pay tuition for such children, as provided in §8-21 of these policies, or must return them to their parents or legal guardians in the state in which they reside.

F. Any person having charge of any child who permits the child to remain at home and not attend school shall be subject to prosecution under state law. See Board Policy §8-18 and §22.1-254 of the Code of Virginia for the procedures for excusals from the compulsory attendance law.

Legal Reference: Code of Virginia §§[22.1-3](#), [22.1-254](#), [22.1-262](#), [22.1-263](#), [22.1-265](#),
[22.1-267](#), [22.1-268](#), [22.1-269](#)

Cross Reference: Board Policy § 8-18

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