

**Title 28
EDUCATION**

Part CXV. Bulletin 741—Louisiana Handbook for School Administrators

Chapter 11. Student Services

§1103. Compulsory Attendance

A. Students who have attained the age of seven years shall attend a public or private day school or participate in an approved home study program until they reach the age of 18 years. Any child below the age of seven who legally enrolls in school shall also be subject to compulsory attendance. Refer to Chapter 33 for information on home study programs.

B. A parent, tutor, or legal guardian who has a student who is under the age of 18 and meets one of the requirements below shall be in compliance with the compulsory attendance law.

1. A student, under 18 years of age, who withdraws from school prior to graduating from high school and who has been ruled to be a truant, pursuant to the provisions of Chapter 15 of Title VII of the Louisiana Children's Code, by a court of competent jurisdiction can be ordered by the court to exercise one of the following options within 120 days of leaving school:

- a. reenroll in school and make continual progress toward completing the requirements for high school graduation;
- b. enroll in a high school equivalency diploma program and make continual progress toward completing the requirements for earning such diploma;
- c. enlist in the Louisiana National Guard or a branch of the United States Armed Forces, with a commitment for at least two years of service, and earn a high school equivalency diploma during such service period.

2. If a student is under the age of 18, the parent or guardian may withdraw the student from high school if that student is seeking admission to a National Guard Youth Challenge Program in this state.

3. For a student who is under the age of 18 and enrolled in school beyond his/her sixteenth birthday, the parent or guardian may request a waiver from the local superintendent for that student to exit school to enroll in an adult education program approved by the Louisiana Community and Technical College System (LCTCS).

a. In the case of a student with no parent or guardian, the local school superintendent may act on behalf of the student in requesting a waiver if appropriate documentation is on file at the local school board office and one or more of the following hardships exist:

- i. pregnant or actively parenting;
- ii. incarcerated or adjudicated;
- iii. institutionalized or living in a residential facility;
- iv. chronic physical or mental illness;
- v. family and/or economic hardships.

(a). Family and/or economic hardship is defined as a student who acts as a caregiver or must work to support the family due to a parent's death or illness, or needs to be removed from an existing home environment.

b. The local school superintendent or his/her designee may approve the request for exiting public or home school without requesting action from BESE. If the request to exit school to enroll in a LCTCS approved adult education program is denied at the local level, a student may request the waiver from the DOE for approval by BESE with documentation of reason for denial at the local level. Students seeking to exit school to enroll in adult education, who are enrolled in a formal education setting other than a public K-12 institution, may request a waiver from the institutional agency head or his/her designee. Mandatory attendance components shall be met in all of the above circumstances.

B.4. - N. ...

NOTE: Refer to §1117.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 17:112; R.S. 17:221.3-4; R.S. 17:226.1; R.S. 17:233.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education, LR 31:1273 (June 2005), amended LR 32:546 (April 2006), LR 32:1030 (June 2006), LR 33:2351 (November 2007), LR 35:641 (April 2009), LR 35:1097 (June 2009), LR 35:1475 (August 2009), LR 36:482 (March 2010), LR 36:1224 (June 2010), LR 37:1126 (April 2011), LR, 37:2132 (July 2011), LR 38:1000 (April 2012), LR 38:1225 (May 2012), LR 38:1399 (June, 2012).

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