

JEA – COMPULSORY ATTENDANCE AGE

Compulsory attendance shall be required of all children in accordance with RSA 193:1 as summarized below. “Parent” means a parent, guardian, or person having legal custody of a child.

Law requires that a parent of any child at least 6 years of age and under 18 years of age shall cause such child to attend the public school to which the child is assigned in his/her resident school district. Such child shall attend full time unless:

1. The child is assigned to a public school outside the district or an approved private school;
2. The child is receiving home education in an approved home education program per state law;
3. The Superintendent has excused a child from attendance because the child is physically or mentally unable to attend school, or has been temporarily excused upon request of the parent for purposes agreed upon by the school authorities and the parent; (Such absence shall not cause serious adverse effect on the student’s educational progress.)
4. The Superintendent or a majority of the School Board has recommended to the Commissioner of Education to exempt a child from attendance for a period of time as seems best for the interest of the child, and that this request has been approved by the Commissioner of Education per RSA 193:5;
5. The pupil has successfully completed all requirements for graduation and the school district is prepared to issue a diploma or the pupil has successfully achieved the equivalent of a high school diploma by obtaining a GED certificate or documenting the completion of a home school program at the high school level by submitting a certificate or letter to the Department of Education;
6. The pupil has been accepted into an accredited postsecondary education program; or
7. The pupil obtains a waiver from the Superintendent, which shall only be granted upon proof that the pupil is 16 years of age or older and has an alternative learning plan for obtaining either a high school diploma or its equivalent.

Statutory/Regulatory/Policy/Handbook Cross References

RSA 193:1 (Duty of Parent; Compulsory Attendance by Pupil)

RSA 193:5 (Exemption From Attendance)

Handbook (Referenced in Handbooks)

APPROVED/REVISED: December 9, 2004, August 20, 2009