

COMPULSORY SCHOOL AGE REQUIREMENTS

State	Ages Through Which a Student Must Remain in School	Statutory Cite
Alabama	7 – 17	Ala. Code § 16-28-3
Alaska	7 – 16 or 12 th grade	Alaska Stat. § 14-30-010
Arizona	6 – 16 or 10 th grade	Ariz. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 15-802
Arkansas	5 – 17	Ark. Stat. Ann. § 6-18-201
California	6 – 18	Cal. Ed Code § 48200
Colorado	6 – 17 ⁱ	Colo. Rev. Stat. § 22-33-104
Connecticut	5 – 18	Conn. Gen. Stat. § 10-184
Delaware	5 – 16	14 Del. Code Ann. § 2702
District of Columbia	5 – 18	D.C. Code Ann. § 38-202
Florida	6 – 16	Fla. Stat. § 1003.21
Georgia	6 – 16	Ga. Code Ann. § 20-2-690.1
Hawaii	6 – 18	Haw. Rev. Stat. § 302A-1132
Idaho	7 – 16	Idaho Code § 33-202
Illinois	7 – 17	105 Ill. Comp. Stat. Ann.5/26-1
Indiana	7 – 18 ⁱⁱ	Ind. Code Ann. § 20-33-2-6
Iowa	6 – 16	Iowa Code § 299.1A
Kansas	7 – 18	Kan. Stat. Ann. § 72-1111
Kentucky	6 – 16	Ky. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 159.010
Louisiana	7 – 18	La. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 17:221
Maine	7 – 17 ⁱⁱⁱ	Me. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 20-A-211-5001-A
Maryland	5 – 16, 17 in 2015 and 18 in 2017	Md. Ed Code Ann. § 7-301; COMAR 13A.08.01.01, 13A.08.01.02, 07.02.10.10; SB 362 chaptered 494
Massachusetts	6 – 16 ^{iv}	Mass. Gen. Laws Ann. § 76-1
Michigan	6 – 18	Mich. Stat. Ann. § 380.1561
Minnesota	7 – 16	Minn. Stat. § 120A.22.5
Mississippi	6 – 17	Miss. Code Ann. § 37-13-91
Missouri	7 – 17 ^v	Mo. Rev Stat. § 167.031
Montana	7 – 16 ^{vi}	Mont. Code Ann. § 20-5-102
Nebraska	6 – 18 ^{vii}	Neb. Rev. Stat. § 79-201
Nevada	7 – 18	Nev. Rev. Stat. § 392.040
New Hampshire	6 – 18 ^{viii}	N.H. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 193:1
New Jersey	6 – 16	N.J. Rev. Stat. § 18A:38-25
New Mexico	5 – 18	N.M. Stat. Ann. §22-8-2, §22-12-2
New York	6 – 16 ^{ix}	N.Y. Ed Law § 3205
North Carolina	7 – 16	N.C. Gen. Stat. § 115C-378
North Dakota	7 – 16 ^x	N.D. Cent. Code § 15.1-20-01
Ohio	6 – 18	Ohio Rev. Code Ann. § 3321.01
Oklahoma	5 – 18	70 Okla. Stat. § 10-105
Oregon	7 – 18	Or. Rev. Stat. § 339.010
Pennsylvania	8 – 17	Purdon's Pa. Stat. Ann. Title 24 § 13-1326
Rhode Island	6 – 18	R.I. Gen. Laws § 16-19-1

State	Ages Through Which a Student Must Remain in School	Statutory Cite
South Carolina	5 – 17	S.C. Code Ann. § 59-65-10
South Dakota	6 – 18	S.D. Codified Laws § 13-27-1
Tennessee	6 – 17	Tenn. Code Ann. § 49-6-3001
Texas	6 – 18	Tex. Ed Code Ann. § 25.085
Utah	6 – 18	Utah Code Ann. § 53A-11-101
Vermont	6 – 16 or 10 th grade	Vt. Stat. Ann. § 16-25-1121
Virginia	5 – 18	Va. Code § 22.1-254
Washington	8 – 18	Wash. Rev. Code § 28A.225.010
West Virginia	6 – 17	W. Va. Code § 18-8-1
Wisconsin	6 – 18	Wis. Stat. § 118.15
Wyoming	7 – 16 or 10 th grade	Wyo. Stat. § 21-4-102

For Kindergarten entrance ages and cutoff dates, see Education Commission of the States (ECS) brief at: <http://www.ecs.org/clearinghouse/01/00/01/10001.pdf>

ⁱ Extends compulsory education requirements to a six-year-old child who has been enrolled in the first grade, unless a parent formally withdraws the child.

ⁱⁱ A student is required to stay in school until he or she: graduates; becomes eighteen (18) years of age; or becomes sixteen (16) years of age but is less than eighteen (18) years of age and the requirements under section 9 of this chapter concerning an exit interview are met enabling the student to withdraw from school before graduation. Withdrawal before 18 requires that the student provides written acknowledgment and the student's parent and school principal each provide written consent.

ⁱⁱⁱ A student is required to stay in school unless he or she graduates from high school before their 17th birthday [1983, c. 806, §49.] The second option for a student to be exempted from compulsory attendance is if they have reached the age of 15 years or completed the 9th grade, has permission to leave school from that person's parent, been approved by the principal for a suitable program of work and study or training, permission to leave school from the school board or its designee, and agreed in writing with that person's parent and the school board or its designee to meet annually until that person's 17th birthday to review that person's educational needs. The third option to be exempted from school attendance involves a person who has matriculated and is attending an accredited, post-secondary, degree-granting institution as a full-time student. An exception to attendance in public school under this paragraph must be approved by the commissioner; or [2009, c. 330, §2.] Finally, a person enrolled in an online learning program or course may be exempt [2009, c. 330, §3.]

^{iv} Every child between the minimum and maximum ages established for school attendance by the board of education, except a child between fourteen and sixteen who meets the requirements for the completion of the sixth grade of the public school as established by said board and who holds a permit for employment in private domestic service or service on a farm, under section eighty-six of chapter one hundred and forty-nine, and is regularly employed there under for at least six hours per day, or a child between fourteen and sixteen who meets said requirements and has the written permission of the superintendent of schools of the town where he resides to engage in non-wage-earning employment at home, or a child over fourteen who holds a permit for employment in a cooperating employment, as provided in said section eighty-six, shall attend a public day school in said town, or some other day school approved by the school committee, during the number of days required by the board of education in each school year.

^v "Compulsory attendance age for the district" shall mean: (1) Seventeen years of age for any metropolitan school district for which the school board adopts a resolution to establish such compulsory attendance age; provided that such resolution shall take effect no earlier than the school year next following the school year during which the resolution is adopted; and (2) Sixteen years of age in all other cases.

A child between fourteen years of age and the compulsory attendance age for the district may be excused from attendance at school for the full time required, or any part thereof, by the superintendent of public schools of the district, or if there is none then by a court of competent jurisdiction, when legal employment has been obtained by the child and found to be desirable, and after the parents or guardian of the child have been advised of the pending action.

^{vi} Compulsory attendance to the age of 16 or until the date of completion of the work of the 8th grade.

^{vii} Exemptions from compulsory school attendance are students who: has obtained a high school diploma by meeting the graduation requirements established in section [79-729](#); has completed the program of instruction offered by a school which elects pursuant to section [79-1601](#) not to meet accreditation or approval requirements; has reached sixteen years of age and has been withdrawn from school pursuant to section [79-202](#); will reach six years of age prior to January 1 of the then-current school year, but will not reach seven years of age prior to January 1 of such school year, (i) such child's parent or guardian has signed an affidavit stating that the child is participating in an education program that the parent or guardian believes will prepare the child to enter grade one for the following school year, and (ii) such affidavit has been filed by the parent or guardian with the school district in which the child resides; (i) will reach six years of age prior to January 1 of the then-current school year but has not reached seven years of age, (ii) such child's parent or guardian has signed an affidavit stating that the parent or guardian intends for the child to participate in a school which has elected or will elect pursuant to section [79-1601](#) not to meet accreditation or approval requirements and the parent or guardian intends to provide the Commissioner of Education with a statement pursuant to subsection (3) of section [79-1601](#) on or before the child's seventh birthday, and (iii) such affidavit has been filed by the parent or guardian with the school district in which the child resides; or will not reach six years of age prior to January 1 of the then-current school year and such child was enrolled in a public school and has discontinued the enrollment according to the policy of the school board adopted pursuant to subsection (4) of this section.

^{viii} A child who reaches the sixth birthday after September 30 shall not be required to attend school under the provisions of this section until the following school year.

^{ix} The board of education of the Syracuse city school district is hereby authorized to require minors who are five years of age on or before December first to attend kindergarten instruction. In each city of the state and in union free school districts having a population of more than 4,500 inhabitants and employing a superintendent of schools, the board of education shall have power to require minors from 16 to 17 years of age who are not employed to attend upon full time day instruction until the last day of session in the school year in which the student becomes 17 years of age.

^x Extends the compulsory education requirements to a six-year-old who has been enrolled in a public school.