

Policy

ATTENDANCE

Code JB/JBA Issued 3/16/22

State law requires all children between the ages of five and 17 to attend an approved public or private school, home school, or kindergarten.

A parent/guardian may elect for his/her child or ward to not attend kindergarten so long as the child/ward is not six years old on or before September 1st of the school year the parent/guardian completes the appropriate paperwork.

The Board expects children to attend school regularly. Regular attendance is necessary if students are to make the desired and expected academic and social progress.

- The school year consists of 180 school days.
- Elementary, middle and high schools will establish guidelines for daily attendance for students to be counted present for a day. These guidelines will include provisions to address tardies to school and class and early dismissals.
- Any absences for a student in grades K-8 exceeding 10 or in grades 9-12 on a block schedule exceeding six in a unit course or exceeding three in a one-half unit course whether lawful, unlawful or a combination thereof, must be approved or disapproved by the superintendent's designee, the school principal. The principal's decision may be appealed to the superintendent's designee.
 - In each grade that does not award high school credit, a student with more than 10 absences, lawful and/or unlawful, will not be promoted without the recommendation of the principal.
 - In each class that may award one unit of high school credit on a block schedule, a student with more than six absences, lawful and/or unlawful, will not receive credit without the recommendation of the principal.
 - In each class that may award one-half unit of high school credit on a block schedule, a student with more than three absences, lawful and/or unlawful, will not receive course credit without the recommendation of the principal.

The District will develop

- definitions for lawful and unlawful absences,
- requirements for excuses and procedures for submitting excuses,
- regulations and procedures for interventions for unlawful absences,
- requirements for recovery and procedures for recovery programs and
- incentive programs at each school to encourage students to strive for perfect attendance.

Adopted 7/24/07; Revised 3/15/22

Legal references:

A. S. C. Code, 1976, as amended:

1. Section 59-5-65(4) - Powers and responsibilities of state Board of education.
2. Section 59-35-10 - Each district to provide a kindergarten program.
3. Section 59-63-20(3) - Entrance age for kindergarten program.
4. Section 59-63-20(4) - Entrance age for first grade.
5. Section 59-63-20(6) - Four-year-olds may attend optional child development programs.
6. Section 59-65-10, et seq. - Compulsory attendance age group in South Carolina includes children ages five through 17; parents may waive compulsory kindergarten attendance requirement.

B. State Board of Education Regulations:

1. R43-274 - Student attendance.