

Policy JEA: COMPULSORY AND PART-TIME ATTENDANCE

Status: DRAFT

Original Adopted Date: 04/21/2010 | Last Revised Date: 06/18/2014

24D UPDATE EXPLANATION

This policy was updated for clarity and to conform with legal changes under Senate Bill 727 and House Bill 2287 (2024).

These bills, read together, created a formal (and quite detailed) definition of home schooling for some legal purposes, but not all. Likewise, these bills created the term "Family Paced Education" or FPE, which is a home school that receives public funds through the state's tax-credit voucher program, the Missouri Empowerment Scholarship Accounts Program. These vouchers can be used for tuition to attend private schools, but they can also be used by homeschooling families for curriculum, educational therapies, tutors, test fees, and other educational expenses.

The legislature adopted this term to separate home schools that accepted public funds (FPEs) from home schools that do not because some homeschooling families are concerned that accepting vouchers will lead to government interference in their education choices.

The difficulty with these definitions is that they do not apply to all state and federal statutes that reference homeschooling and have the potential to confuse district staff and the public who are not familiar with what an FPE is. For this reason, MSBA has decided to reference an FPE in this policy, as opposed to all of the policies that reference homeschooling in the district's manual.

The Smithville R-II School District exists to improve lives through education. The district seeks to enroll and educate all resident children in the community, as required by law.

The district provides educational programming for all students between the ages of 5 and 21 years of age. In addition, students as young as three may qualify for and receive special education services. The district may also provide preschool and adult education programs.

Compulsory Attendance

While the board seeks to provide educational services beyond the mere minimum requirements of the law, the law requires all children within the compulsory attendance age to regularly attend a public, private, parochial, parish, home school, family paced education school, or a combination of such schools for the duration of the entire school term. The compulsory attendance age is between 7 and 17 years of age or, if under 17, until the student successfully completes 16 credits toward high school graduation.

Once enrolled in the district, the district expects the student to attend regularly and for the student's parents/guardians or other adults having charge, control, or custody of the student to communicate regularly and honestly with the district regarding the student's absences. Because the district board and district staff strongly believe that regular attendance is important in gaining the most from the educational experience and because state law requires district staff to report all instances of abuse and neglect, including educational neglect, the district will make every effort to ensure students are attending school as required by law. These efforts include, but are not limited to: accurately recording attendance, creating procedures for regular communication with parents/guardians regarding attendance, investigating truancy, and reporting suspected incidences of educational neglect to the Children's Division (CD) of the Department of Social Services.

Part-Time Attendance

Although the district believes that all students will benefit from attending the Smithville R-II School District full-time, state law allows students to attend public school part-time, as long as their total educational experience meets the requirements of the state compulsory education law and the student is not already enrolled full-time in another public school. The superintendent or designee will create procedures on enrollment of part-time students to ensure that such enrollments do not jeopardize the discipline, health, and academic standards of the district. The board also directs the superintendent to annually analyze the number of students attending school part-time and to create vocational, dual-credit, advanced placement, or other programs and incentives to encourage these students to attend school full-time. Eligible students may also participate in the School Flex Program per district policy.

Students Withdrawing from or Dropping Out of School

Once enrolled, the student will be considered a district student until the district is directed to withdraw the student or until multiple unsuccessful attempts have been made to contact the parents/guardians or student to confirm continued enrollment after several absences. The district will encourage all families and students to consult with district staff prior to withdrawing a student.

Any student age 16 years or older who drops out of school for any reason other than to attend another school, college, or university, or to enlist in the armed services, shall be reported to the state literacy hotline office.

© 2024, Missouri School Boards' Association
Version JEA-C.1G (10/24)

Policy Reference Disclaimer: These references are not intended to be part of the policy itself, nor do they indicate the basis or authority for the board to enact this policy. Instead, they are provided as additional resources for those interested in the subject matter of the policy.

State References

§ 160.539, RSMo.
§ 161.670, RSMo.
§ 163.011, RSMo.
§ 163.012, RSMo.
§ 167.042, RSMo.
§ 167.275, RSMo.
§ 211.034, RSMo.
§§ 167.031-.111, RSMo.

Description

[State Statute](#)
[State Statute](#)
[State Statute](#)
[State Statute](#)
[State Statute](#)
[State Statute](#)
[State Statute](#)
[State Statute](#)

Cross References

IGBD
IGBI
IGCD
IGCDA
IGCE-1

Description

[AT-RISK STUDENTS](#)
[HOME SCHOOLING](#)
[VIRTUAL COURSES](#)
[FULL-TIME MOCAP VIRTUAL COURSES](#)
[NONTRADITIONAL INSTRUCTION OPTIONS](#)