



Q & A: Truancy

The Minnesota Department of Education (MDE) Division of Compliance and Assistance has developed this document to provide technical assistance to districts that have raised questions about truancy.

Question 1: Is a student who is under the age of seven subject to the compulsory attendance requirements?

Answer: Yes, unless the school district has a policy that exempts children from its compulsory attendance policy. *See* Minn. Stat. § 120A.22, subd. 5- 6.

Question 2: If a school district does not exempt children under the age of seven from its compulsory instruction policy, what if a parent initially enrolls a child in school, and then wants to withdraw the student from school?

Answer: For students under seven years of age, a parent can notify the school that they are withdrawing a student for good cause, which includes enrollment in another school or immaturity of the child. *See* Minn. Stat. § 120A.22, subd. 6(c).

Question 3: Can a district refer a student 18 years or older to a county social services program for truancy?

Answer: No. The definition of a habitual truancy does not extend to age 18 or older. *See* Minn. Stat. § 260C.007, subd. 19.

Question 4: Can a district refer a 16 or 17 year-old student to a county social services program for truancy?

Answer: Yes, unless the parent and student sign an election to withdraw. *See* Minn. Stat. § 260C.007, subd. 19.

Authority: Minn. Stat. §§ 120A.22, subd. 5-6; and Minn. Stat. § 260C.007, subd. 19.