

DIOCESE OF DES MOINES
Catholic Schools Policies/Regulations

STUDENT PERSONNEL

Compulsory Attendance

It shall be the policy of the Diocese of Des Moines Catholic Schools Board that students enrolled in the Catholic schools follow the compulsory school attendance laws of Iowa. Students are required to attend school from Kindergarten until age 16. Students who are enrolled in the 4 Year Old Universal Preschool program are also considered of compulsory school attendance age unless the parents, in consultation with the school, withdraw the child from the program.

Students should attend school the number of hours school is in session in accordance with the school calendar. Schools may establish a local policy concerning the minimum number of days a student must be in attendance in order to successfully complete the requirements for student's grade. Exceptions to this policy include children who have completed the requirements for graduation in an accredited school or have obtained a high school equivalency diploma.

The principal must investigate the cause for a student's truancy. If the principal is unable to secure the truant student's attendance the principal will refer the matter to the county attorney.

The school will participate in mediation if requested by the county attorney. The principal will represent the school in mediation. The school will monitor the student's compliance with the mediation agreement and will report violations of the mediation agreement to the county attorney.

It shall be the responsibility of the parent or guardian to notify the student's school as soon as the parent or guardian knows the student will not be in attendance on a particular day or days. (IAC: 259A)

Policy Adopted: January 20, 1992

Policy Revised: March 23, 2015

Policy Approved by Bishop Pates: March 28, 2015