

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 Office, under the aegis of the Bishop, that students enrolled in the Catholic schools follow the compulsory school attendance laws of Iowa. A child who has reached the age of six and is under sixteen years of age by September 15 is of compulsory attendance age, unless the parent or guardian of the child notifies the school in writing of the parent's or guardian's intent to remove the child from enrollment in the school district. (IAC 299.1A(2))

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. If withdrawal from the program is the option, parents will notify the school in writing. (IAC 299.1A(3))

Students should attend school the number of hours/hours school is in session in accordance with the school calendar. Schools may establish a local policy concerning the minimum number of days/hours 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 Approved by Bishop Pates: March 28, 2015
Policy Revised: January 30, 2020
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