

Compulsory Attendance Ages

Every child who has attained the age of seven years and is under the age of 17 is required to attend public school with such exceptions as provided by law. It is the parents' responsibility to ensure attendance.

The courts may issue orders against the child, child's parent, or both compelling the child to attend school or the parent to take reasonable steps to assure the child's attendance. The order may require the parent, child or both to follow an appropriate treatment plan that addresses problems affecting the child's school attendance and that ensures an opportunity for the child to obtain a quality education.

Adopted: October 1992

Revised: September 1997, September 2007, December 2013

LEGAL REFS.: C.R.S. 22-32-110(1)(mm) (*board may authorize school employee to represent school district in judicial proceedings to enforce compulsory attendance*)
C.R.S. 22-33-104 (compulsory school attendance ages)
C.R.S. 22-33-104.5 (home-based education)
C.R.S. 22-33-107 (enforcement of school attendance laws)
C.R.S. 22-33-108 (judicial proceedings to enforce school attendance laws)

NOTE 1: On or after July 1, 2008, compulsory attendance will apply to every child who is six years old on or before August 1 of each year. A parent of a five or six year old child who is attending preschool or kindergarten may notify the child's school of the parent's wish that the child not advance to first grade in the following school year. The school shall not advance the child to first grade after receiving this notice from the parent.

NOTE 2: The Board of Education may pass a resolution authorizing one or more employees of the school district to represent the school district in truancy proceedings in state court.

NOTE 3: State law provides that court proceedings to compel compliance with the compulsory attendance law shall only be used as a last-resort approach for addressing the problem of truancy. The district shall first have attempted other options for addressing truancy that employ best practices and research-based strategies to minimize the need for court action. Before initiating court proceedings, the district shall provide written notice to the student and his or her parent that the district will initiate court proceedings if the student doesn't comply with the compulsory attendance law. C.R.S. 22-33-108(5).