

Policy JHBB Attendance Monitoring/Accounting

Issued 12/99

Purpose: To establish the basic structure for attendance monitoring/accounting.

South Carolina school attendance laws

[Section 59-65-10](#)

All parents or guardians shall cause their children or wards to regularly attend a public or private kindergarten or school of this state which has been approved by the State Board of Education or by a member school of the South Carolina Independent Home Schools Association or some similar organization, or a parochial, denominational or church-related school, or other programs which have been approved by the State Board of Education from the school year in which the child or ward is five years of age on or before September first until the child or ward attains his seventeenth birthday or graduates from high school.

[Section 59-65-20](#)

Any parent or guardian who neglects to enroll his child or ward or refuses to make such a child or ward attend school shall, upon conviction, be fined not more than fifty dollars or be imprisoned not more than thirty days; each day's absence shall constitute a separate offense; provided, the court may in its discretion suspend the sentence of anyone convicted of the provisions of this act.

[Section 59-65-90](#)

The State Board of Education shall establish regulations defining lawful and unlawful absences beyond those specifically named in this article and additional regulations as are necessary for the orderly enrollment of students so as to provide for uniform dates of entrance. These regulations shall require: (1) that school officials shall immediately intervene to encourage the student's future attendance when the student has three consecutive unlawful absences or a total of five unlawful absences and (2) that the district board of trustees or its designee shall promptly approve or disapprove any student absence in excess of ten days. As used in this section, "intervene" means to identify the reasons for the child's continued absence and to develop a plan in conjunction with the student and his parent or guardian to improve his future attendance.

Provided, however, that nothing within this section shall interfere with the board's authority to at any time refer a child to a truancy prevention program or to the court pursuant to [59-65-50](#).

Adopted 1/20/98; Revised 12/14/99

Legal references:

S.C. Code of Laws, 1976, as amended:

[Section 59-65-10](#) - Responsibility of parent.

[Section 59-65-20](#) - Penalty for failure to enroll or cause child to attend school.

[Section 59-65-50](#) - Nonattendance reported to court having jurisdiction of juveniles.

[Section 59-65-90](#) - Rules and regulations.

State Board of Education Regulations:

[R-43-274](#) - Student attendance

School District of Fairfield County