

CHAPTER 65.

ATTENDANCE OF PUPILS

ARTICLE 1.

COMPULSORY ATTENDANCE

SECTION 59-65-10. Responsibility of parent or guardian; notification by school district of availability of kindergarten; transportation for kindergarten pupils.

(A) All parents or guardians shall cause their children or wards to attend regularly a public or private school or kindergarten of this State which has been approved by the State Board of Education or a member school of the South Carolina Independent 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 before September first until the child or ward attains his seventeenth birthday or graduates from high school. A parent or guardian whose child or ward is not six years of age on or before the first day of September of a particular school year may elect for their child or ward not to attend kindergarten. For this purpose, the parent or guardian shall sign a written document making the election with the governing body of the school district in which the parent or guardian resides. The form of this written document must be prescribed by regulation of the Department of Education. Upon the written election being executed, that child or ward may not be required to attend kindergarten.

(B) Each school district shall provide transportation to and from public school for all pupils enrolled in public kindergarten classes who request the transportation. Regulations of the State Board of Education governing the operation of school buses shall apply.

HISTORY: 1962 Code Section 21-757; 1967 (55) 181; 1979 Act No. 199, Part II Section 25; 1984 Act No. 512, Part II, Section 9, Division II, Subdivision A, SubPart 3, Section 2(C), (D); 1987 Act No. 29 Section 1; 1993 Act No. 164, Part II, Section 29C.

SECTION 59-65-20. Penalty for failure to enroll or cause child to attend school.

Any parent or guardian who neglects to enroll his child or ward or refuses to make such 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 article.

HISTORY: 1962 Code Section 21-757.1; 1967 (55) 181.