JE Student Attendance

Issued 3/04 Draft/19

Purpose: To establish the basic structure for student attendance.

State law requires all children between the ages of five and 17 to attend a public or private school or kindergarten approved by the State Board of Education, the South Carolina Independent Schools Association, or approved by the district for home schooling. A parent/legal guardian may elect for his/her child or ward to not attend kindergarten so long as the child/ward whose child or ward is not six years old on or before September 1st of the school year may waive kindergarten attendance for his/her child and the parent/guardian completes the appropriate paperwork.

The board expects students to attend school regularly daily. Attendance is the presence of a student on days when school is in session. For purposes of the Carnegie unit credit, students may be counted present only when they are actually at school or on homebound instruction. Regular attendance Attendance is necessary if students are to make the desired and expected academic and social progress.

The school year consists of 180 school days. In order to receive one Carnegie unit of credit, a student must be in attendance at least 120 hours, per unit, regardless of the number of days missed. High school students must attend 80 days of each 90-day semester course to receive credit. They must attend 160 days of each 180-day course to receive one unit of credit.

Cf. JH

Adopted 1/22/80; Revised 5/14/85, 3/10/87, 9/12/95, 7/1/03, 3/9/04,

Legal references:
S.C. Code, 1976, as amended:
Section 59-35-10 - Each district to provide a kindergarten program.
Section 59-63-20(3) - Entrance age for kindergarten program.
Section 59-63-20(4) - Entrance age for first grade.
Section 59-63-20(6) - Four-year-olds may attend optional child development programs.
Section 59-65-10 et. seq - Compulsory attendance age group in South Carolina includes children ages five through 17; parents may waive compulsory kindergarten attendance requirement.
State Board of Education Regulations:
R-43-274 - Student attendance.