



WELLS-OGUNQUIT COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

COMPULSORY ATTENDANCE

Attendance at school shall be required of persons in the State as follows:

1. Requirement: Persons 6 years of age or older and under 17 years shall attend a public day school during the time it is in regular session.
2. Exceptions: Attendance at school shall not be required of the following:
 - A. A person who graduates from high school before that person's 17th birthday;
 - B. A person who has:
 - (1) reached the age of 15 years or completed the 9th grade;
 - (2) permission to leave school from that person's parent;
 - (3) been approved by the principal for a suitable program of work and study or training;
 - (4) permission to leave school from the school committee or its designee; and
 - (5) agreed in writing with that person's parent and the school committee or its designee to meet annually until that person's 17th birthday to review that person's educational needs. When the request to be excused from school has been denied pursuant to this paragraph, the student's parent may appeal to the commissioner; or
 - C. A person who has matriculated and is attending an accredited, post-secondary, degree-granting institution as a full-time student. An exception to attendance in public school under this paragraph must be approved by the Commissioner.
 - D. A person enrolled in an online learning program or course, unless the person is enrolled in a virtual public charter school as defined in 20-A M.R.S.A. §2401(11).
3. Alternatives to attendance at public day school: Alternatives to attendance at public day school are as follows:
 - A. Equivalent instruction alternatives are as follows:
 - (1) A person is excused from attending a public day school if the person obtains equivalent instruction in:
 - (a) a private school approved for attendance purposes pursuant to Section 2901;
 - (b) a private school recognized by the department as providing equivalent instruction;
 - (c) a home instruction program that complies with the requirements of Subparagraph (4); or
 - (d) any other manner arranged for by the School Committee and approved by the Commissioner.
 - B. A person may be excused from attendance at a public day school pursuant to 20-A M.R.S.A. §5104-A (other public or private alternative programs) or §8605 (student attendance in adult education courses).

Credit for Attendance at a Private School

A student shall be credited with attendance at a private school only if a certificate showing the name, residence and attendance of the person at the school, signed by the person or persons in charge of the school, has been filed with the school officials of the administrative unit in which the student resides.

Discontinuation of Home Instruction

If the home instruction program is discontinued, students of compulsory school age must be enrolled in a public school or an equivalent instruction alternative as provided by law. The receiving school shall determine the placement of the student. At the secondary level, the principal of the receiving school shall determine the value of the prior educational experience toward meeting the standards of Maine’s system of Learning Results.

Excusable Absence: A person’s absence is excused when the absence is for the following reasons:

- A. Personal illness;
- B. An appointment with a health professional that must be made during the regular school day;
- C. Observance of a recognized religious holiday when the observance is required during the regular school day;
- D. A family emergency;
- E. A planned absence for a personal or educational purpose which has been approved; or
- F. Education disruption resulting from homelessness, unplanned psychiatric hospitalization, unplanned hospitalization for a medical emergency, foster care placement, youth development center placement or some other out-of-district placement that is not otherwise authorized by either an individualized education plan or other education plan or a superintendents’ student transfer agreement. “Education disruption” does not apply to a student who is out of school.

Parents are responsible for the attendance of students who are under 17 years of age. The School Committee shall work with families in an effort to ensure compliance.

Secondary school students 20 years of age or more will only be admitted to the District with prior School Committee approval.

Legal Reference: 20-A M.R.S.A. § 5001-A; 5003; 5201
Ch. 125 § 8.06 (Maine Department of Education Rules)

Cross Reference: IGBGHA- Home Schooling
JFC – Student Withdrawal From School
JEDAA - Truancy

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