

COMPULSORY ATTENDANCE AGES

Under South Dakota law, children between the ages of six (6) and eighteen (18) are of compulsory school age. It is the responsibility of every person having under their control a child between those ages to see to the child's attendance at school until the child has reached the age of eighteen (18), unless excused.

Any person who does not see to the school attendance of a child in their care will be guilty of a misdemeanor and if convicted, will be subject to a fine as established by law.

No student will be denied the right of attending school without due process of law.

GED Exemption

Students aged 16 years of age or older will be exempt from compulsory attendance provided they are enrolled and participating in a school-based or school contracted Graduate Equivalency Degree program and meets one or more of the following five conditions:

1. Verification from a school administrator that the child will not graduate with the child's cohort class because of credit deficiency;
2. Authorization from a court services officer;
3. A court order requiring the child to enter the program;
4. Verification that the child is under the direction of the Department of Corrections; or
5. Verification that the child is enrolled in Job Corps as authorized by Title I-C of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998, as amended to January 1, 2009.