

8320 COMPULSORY ATTENDANCE

Any child who will reach six years of age prior to January 1 of the current year and who has not reached eighteen years of age shall meet the requirements of mandatory school attendance. Any child of mandatory attendance age must by law regularly attend a public, private, non-denominational, parochial school, or a combination of such schools not less than the entire school term of the school(s) that the child attends.

Minimum Age

A child shall be eligible for admission into kindergarten at the beginning of the school year if the child is five years of age or will be five years of age on or before July 31 of the calendar year in which the child is seeking admission begins. The Grand Island Public Schools may admit a child who will reach the age of five years on or after August 1 and on or before October 15 of such school year if the parent or guardian requests such entrance and provides an affidavit stating that (i) the child attended kindergarten in another jurisdiction in the current school year; (ii) the family anticipates a relocation to another jurisdiction that would allow admission within the current year; or (iii) the child has demonstrated through a recognized assessment procedure approved by the School Board that the child is capable of carrying the work of kindergarten. The parents or legal guardian shall furnish proof of birth, physical and visual evaluation, and immunizations at the time of entry.

Exceptions for Younger Students

It is the policy of the Grand Island Public Schools to allow the parent/guardian of any child to request discontinuation of enrollment in the Grand Island Public Schools for the following reasons:

- (1) child will reach six years of age prior to January 1 of the then-current school year, but will not reach seven years of age prior to January 1 of such school year, parent or guardian has signed an affidavit stating that the child is participating in an education program that the parent or guardian believes will prepare the child to enter grade one for the following school year, and such affidavit (8320.1) has been filed by the parents or guardian with the school district in which the child resides; or
- (2) child will reach six years of age prior to January 1 of the then-current school year but has not reached seven years of age prior to January 1 and the child will participate in a non-accredited or approved private, denominational, or parochial school pursuant to NE Rev Stat 79-1601

Guidelines for parents/guardians:

- 1. The student's parent(s) or legal guardian shall submit a completed and accurate application form prescribed by the district for discontinuation of enrollment (8320.1).
- 2. The application shall be accompanied by a copy of the student's birth certificate issued by the state in which the child was born or other reliable proof of the child's identity and age (i.e., naturalization or immigration documents showing date of birth or official hospital birth records).
- 3. The district will provide written notification to the parent(s) or legal guardian of the student, stating whether the application has been accepted or rejected. If the application is rejected, the rejection notice will state the reason(s) for the rejection.
- 4. The district shall inform the student's parent(s) or legal guardian of the student's right to re-enroll at any time in the school, if qualified under law.

Exceptions for Older Students

Attendance is also not mandatory for a child who:

- (1) has obtained a high school diploma by meeting statutory graduation requirements;
- (2) has completed the program of instruction offered by a school which elects pursuant to law not to meet accreditation or approval requirements; or
- (3) has reached the age of 16 years and has been withdrawn from school in the manner prescribed by law.

Early Withdrawal for Students Enrolled in an Exempt School (Home Schools)

A person who has legal or actual charge or control of a child who is at least 16 but less than 18 years of age may withdraw such child from school before graduation and be exempt from the mandatory attendance requirements if such child has been enrolled in a school that elects not to meet the accreditation or approval requirements by filing with the State Department of Education a signed notarized release on a form prescribed by the Commissioner of Education.

Early Withdrawal for Student Enrolled in Accredited or Approved Schools

Application for Early Withdrawal

A person who has legal or actual charge or control of a child who is at least 16 but less than 18 years of age may withdraw such child from school before graduation and be exempt from the mandatory attendance requirements if an exit interview is conducted and a withdrawal form is signed (8320.2)

Exit Interview

The process is initiated by a person who has legal or actual charge or control of the child submitting an application for Early Withdrawal (8320.2). Upon submission of the form the Superintendent or Superintendent's designee shall set a time and place for an exit interview if the child is enrolled in Grand Island Public Schools or resides in the Grand Island Public School District and is enrolled in a private, denominational, or parochial school.

The exit interview shall be personally attended by:

- The child, unless the withdrawal is being requested due to an illness of the child making attendance at the exit interview impossible or impracticable;
- The person who has legal or actual charge or control of the child who requested the exit interview;
- The Superintendent or Superintendent's designee;
- The child's principal or the principal's designee if the child at the time of the exit interview is enrolled in a school operated by the school district; and
- Any other person requested by any of the required parties who agrees to attend the exit interview and is available at the time designated for the exit interview which may include, for example, other school personnel or the child's principal if the child is enrolled in a private school.

At the exit interview, the person making the written request must present evidence that (a) the person has legal or actual charge or control of the child and (b) the child would be withdrawing due to either:

- Financial hardships requiring the child to be employed to support the child's family or one or more dependents of the child, or
- An illness of the child making attendance impossible or impracticable

The Superintendent or Superintendent's designee shall identify all known alternative educational opportunities, including vocational courses of study, that are available to the child in the school district and how withdrawing from school is likely to reduce potential future earnings for the child and increase the likelihood of the child being unemployed in the future. Any other relevant information may be presented and discussed by any of the parties in attendance.

At the conclusion of the exit interview, the person making the written request may sign a withdrawal from provided by the Nebraska Department of Education agreeing to the withdrawal of the child OR may rescind the written request for the withdrawal.

Withdrawal Form

The NDE Withdrawal Form signed by the person making the written request shall be valid only if:

- The child also signs the form, unless the withdrawal is being requested due to an illness of the child making attendance at the exit interview impossible or impracticable, and
- The Superintendent or Superintendent's designee signs the form acknowledging that the interview was held, the required information was provided and discussed at the interview, and, in the opinion of the Superintendent or Superintendent's designee, the person making the written

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request does in fact have legal or actual charge or control of the child is experiencing either (1) financial hardship, or (2) an illness making attendance impossible or impracticable.

Legal Reference: Neb. Statute 79-201 and 79-209

Policy Reference: 8310 STUDENT ATTENDANCE ABSENCES EXCUSED
8312 EXCESSIVE ABSENTEEISM

Policy Adopted - November 3, 1980

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8320.1–Guidelines for Discontinuation of Enrollment

RELEASE FORM

The undersigned, being first duly sworn, states upon oath as follows:

I am the parent or guardian of _____ (Child's name). The Child's date of birth is _____. The Child has or will reach the age of six prior to January 1 of the current school year, but will not reach age seven prior to January 1 of the current school year.

I elect to not enroll the Child in an accredited school this school year and hereby affirm (check or initial appropriate exception for attendance):

_____ the Child is participating in an education program that the parent or guardian believes will prepare the child to enter grade one for the following school year; or

_____ the parent or guardian intends for the Child to participate in a school which has elected or will elect pursuant to law not to meet accreditation or approval requirements and the parent or guardian intends to provide the Commissioner of Education with a statement pursuant to section 79-1601(3) on or before the child's seventh birthday.

Dated this ____ day of _____, 20__.

Parent or Guardian

Disenroll to Attend Homeschool

I am the parent or guardian of _____ (Child's name).

I elect to disenroll the Child from an accredited school this school year and hereby affirm that I intend for the Child to participate in a school which has elected or will elect pursuant to law not to meet accreditation or approval requirements (a homeschool) and will provide the Commissioner of Education with a statement confirming such homeschool status.

Parent or Guardian

Date