

● **SCHOOL ATTENDANCE AND CHILD EMPLOYMENT LAW**

*STATUTORY CITATION:* Conn. Gen. Stat. §§ 10-184 – 10-202f

*GENERAL SUMMARY:* With few exceptions, each parent or other person having control of a child who is at least 5 years of age but not yet 18 must assure the child's regular attendance at a public day school during the hours and terms that the local public schools are in session, unless the parent or guardian can show that the child is receiving equivalent instruction elsewhere. This law makes no distinctions between farmworkers and non-farmworkers, or between agricultural and non-agricultural employers.

*SPECIFIC TERMS AND CONDITIONS*

**EMPLOYMENT RESTRICTIONS** —Employers are prohibited from employing a child under 14 years of age during the hours when the school the child should be attending is in session.

**AGE CERTIFICATES** — In the following specific cases, employers wishing to employ anyone under 18 years of age must obtain a certificate from the local school district proving that the minor is:

16 Years of Age or Older — For work in the manufacturing, mechanical or theatrical industry, or in a restaurant, bowling alley, or shoeshine or barber shop.

15 Years of Age or Older — For work in a retail store or other mercantile establishment.

14 Years of Age or Older — For work at a golf course.

*ADMINISTRATION AND ENFORCEMENT*

**PRIMARY ENFORCEMENT AGENCY** — The school attendance law is enforced by local boards of education, primarily through attendance officers appointed for that purpose. Attendance officers are authorized to investigate absences and irregular attendance, and to pursue court prosecution of employers who permit children to work in violation of these provisions, as well as prosecution of parents and guardians who fail to assure regular school attendance by children in their custody.

**SECONDARY OR ASSOCIATED ENFORCEMENT AGENCY** — *None.*