

● **COMPULSORY SCHOOL ATTENDANCE LAW**

STATUTORY CITATION: Fla. Stat. §§ 1003.21–1003.29

GENERAL SUMMARY: The compulsory school attendance law provides that, with certain exceptions, all children who have reached the age of 6 years but are not yet 16 are required to attend school regularly during the entire school term. The law makes the parent of a child of mandatory school age responsible for the child's attendance.

PROVISIONS APPLICABLE TO AGRICULTURE: The compulsory attendance law applies to all children in the affected age group, and to their parents or guardians, without respect to occupational classification.

ADMINISTRATION AND ENFORCEMENT

PRIMARY ENFORCEMENT AGENCY — These provisions are enforced by local school superintendents or their designees, who are responsible for maintaining pupil accounting records, investigating non-enrollment and unexcused absences, and giving notice to parents or guardians in cases of unexplained non-attendance or absence. School officials are authorized to enter and inspect any establishment where minors may be employed, for the purpose of investigating possible violations of the compulsory attendance law. In each instance of non-enrollment or non-attendance on the part of a child who is required to attend school, when no valid reason for such non-enrollment or absence is found and after written notice to the parent, the superintendent must institute criminal prosecution against the child's parent.

SECONDARY OR ASSOCIATED ENFORCEMENT AGENCY — *Child Labor Program, Division of Regulation, Department of Business and Professional Regulation, Tallahassee, Florida 32399 (850-488-3131)*. School superintendents or their designees are required to report to this agency all apparent violations of the Child Labor Law that come to their attention in the course of enforcing compulsory school attendance.