

● **MISSISSIPPI COMPULSORY SCHOOL ATTENDANCE LAW**

STATUTORY CITATION: Miss. Code §§ 37-13-80 – 37-13-107

GENERAL SUMMARY: With only narrow exceptions, the Mississippi Compulsory School Attendance Law requires the parent, guardian or custodian of any child who reaches the age of 6 on or before September 1 of any year, but is under the age of 17 by that date, to enroll the child in a public school or a legitimate non-public school for the ensuing school year and assure the child's attendance.

PROVISIONS APPLICABLE TO AGRICULTURE: Children of compulsory school age are required to attend school without regard to their own employment status or that of their parents.

ADMINISTRATION AND ENFORCEMENT

PRIMARY ENFORCEMENT AGENCY — *Office of Compulsory School Attendance Enforcement, Mississippi Department of Education, Jackson, Mississippi 39205 (601-359-3178).* The Compulsory School Attendance Law is enforced by school attendance officers employed and supervised by the Department. Attendance officers must investigate all cases of non-attendance and unlawful absences by compulsory-aged children not enrolled in a non-public school. When a school attendance officer has exhausted attempts to secure the attendance of a compulsory-school-age child, the attendance officer must file a report with the youth court, which has jurisdiction to enforce school and education laws. The youth court may order any public school to enroll or re-enroll any compulsory-school-age child after notice and hearing.

SECONDARY OR ASSOCIATED ENFORCEMENT AGENCY — *None.*