COMPULSORY ATTENDANCE LAW

STATUTORY CITATION: Mo. Rev. Stat. §§ 167.031 – 167.111

GENERAL SUMMARY: In general, every parent, guardian or other person in Missouri having custody or control of a child between the ages of 7 and 17 is responsible for assuring the child's regular attendance at a public, private, parochial, parish or home school, for the entire length of the school term. The upper age limit may be lowered to 16 by vote of the school board in any metropolitan school district.

PROVISIONS APPLICABLE TO AGRICULTURE: There are no employment- or occupation-related exceptions to the school attendance requirement.

ADMINISTRATION AND ENFORCEMENT

PRIMARY ENFORCEMENT AGENCY — The local school districts are responsible for enforcing the compulsory attendance law, through school attendance officers or comparable officials appointed for that purpose. Attendance officers are vested with the same enforcement powers exercised by deputy sheriffs in the performance of their duties, and hence are authorized to enter any place of employment, private business establishment or public property, inspect age and employment documents, and make arrests without warrant where truancy is in evidence. Parents, guardians and other individual custodians of children of compulsory school age who are not enrolled in school or fail to attend as required are subject to criminal prosecution.

SECONDARY OR ASSOCIATED ENFORCEMENT AGENCY — *Commissioner of Education, Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, Jefferson City, Missouri 65101 (573-751-4212).*