

● **COMPULSORY EDUCATION LAW**

STATUTORY CITATION: Neb. Rev. Stat. §§ 79-201 – 79-210

GENERAL SUMMARY: Every person in Nebraska who has legal or actual control of a child who will reach the age of 6 by January 1 of the then-current school year, but who has not reached age 18, must ensure that the child enrolls and regularly attends an approved public, private, denominational or parochial day school each day the school is open and in session that year.

In addition to other, more narrow exemptions, the compulsory education requirement does not apply where the services or earnings of a child are necessary for the support of those actually dependent on the child, or for his or her own support, provided the child is at least 14 years old and has completed the 8th grade. This exception to the school attendance requirement, however, is contingent on (1) application by the child's parent or guardian for an employment permit from the local school superintendent, and (2) attendance by the child at a part-time continuation school, if available, for 8 hours a week during the entire school year.

PROVISIONS APPLICABLE TO AGRICULTURE: These provisions apply to children of compulsory school age, and to their parents or guardians, without occupational distinctions.

ADMINISTRATION AND ENFORCEMENT

PRIMARY ENFORCEMENT AGENCY — The compulsory education law is enforced by city and county school superintendents, through attendance officers employed for that purpose. Whenever a child's reported failure to attend school as required comes to the attention of the superintendent, and subsequent investigation confirms unlawful absence, the local attendance officer must try informally to correct the violation. Continued failure by the parent or guardian to send the child to school must be reported to the county attorney for prosecution.

SECONDARY OR ASSOCIATED ENFORCEMENT AGENCY — *None.*