

● **PUBLIC SCHOOL CODE OF 1949 (COMPULSORY SCHOOL ATTENDANCE)**

STATUTORY CITATION: 24 Pa. Stat. §§ 13-1326 – 13-1333

GENERAL SUMMARY: In general, every child residing in Pennsylvania who is at least 8 years old but not yet 17 is required to attend a day school in which the state-prescribed curriculum is taught in the English language. It is the legal responsibility of every parent, guardian or other person having control of a child of compulsory school age to send the child to such a school for the entire term during which the public schools where the child is living are in session. Among other exceptions, a child who has attained the age of 16 and is regularly employed under a valid employment certificate issued by the local school district is not required to attend school.

PROVISIONS APPLICABLE TO AGRICULTURE

COVERAGE — Along with other children of compulsory school age who are members of farmworker households and not excused from compliance under the exceptions cited below, every migratory child between 8 and 17 years of age temporarily residing in Pennsylvania in connection with seasonal employment is subject to the compulsory school attendance provisions. The parent or other person in charge of such a child must assure the child's attendance during the entire time the local public schools are in session.

EXCEPTIONS — The compulsory attendance law does not apply to (1) any child 14 years of age who is employed in agriculture under a valid work permit issued by the local school district and who has satisfactorily completed the elementary grades, or (2) any child age 15 or over who is employed in farmwork under a work permit, regardless of educational attainment.

ADMINISTRATION AND ENFORCEMENT

PRIMARY ENFORCEMENT AGENCY — The compulsory attendance requirements are enforced by the local school districts, through attendance officers employed for that purpose. Attendance officers are vested with full police powers and may enter any place where children are employed, inspect employment certificates and work permits, and arrest without warrant any child who fails to attend school in compliance with these provisions. A parent or person in parental relation to a child of compulsory school age who, after 3 days' written notice of a violation, fails to comply with his or her duty to assure the child's attendance is subject to a fine of \$300, completion of a parenting education program, or a jail term of up to 5 days.

SECONDARY OR ASSOCIATED ENFORCEMENT AGENCY — *None.*