

Former North Carolina General Statutes

Year Enacted: 1956

Chapter 115 -- Education

Article 20. General Compulsory Attendance Law.

115-166. Parent or guardian required to keep child in school; exceptions. -- Every parent, guardian or other person in this State having charge or control of a child between the ages of seven and sixteen years shall cause such child to attend school continuously for a period equal to the time which the public school to which the child is assigned and in which he is enrolled shall be in session; provided, this requirement shall not apply with respect to any child when the board of education of the administrative unit in which the child resides finds that:

- (1) Such child is now assigned against the wishes of his parent or guardian, or person standing in loco parentis to such child, to a public school attended by a child of another race and it is not reasonable and practicable to reassign such a child to a public school not attended by a child of another race; and
- (2) It is not reasonable and practicable for such child to attend a private nonsectarian school, as defined in article 35 of this chapter.

The principal, superintendent, or teacher who is in charge of such school shall have the right to excuse a child temporarily from attendance on account of sickness, distance of residence from bus route or school, or other unavoidable cause which does not constitute truancy as defined by the State Board of Education. The term "school" as used herein is defined to embrace all public schools and such private schools as have tutors or teachers and curricula that are approved by the county or city superintendent of schools or the State Board of Education.

All private schools receiving and instructing children of a compulsory school age shall be required to keep such records of attendance and render such reports of the attendance of such children and maintain such minimum curriculum standards as are required of public schools; and attendance upon such schools, if the school or tutor refuses or neglects to keep such records or to render such reports, shall not be accepted in lieu of attendance upon the public school of the district to which the child shall be assigned: Provided, that instruction in a private school or by private tutor shall not be regarded as meeting the requirements of the law unless the courses of instruction run concurrently with the term of the public school in the district and extend for at least as long a term. (1955, c. 1372, art. 20, s. 1; 1956, Ex. Sess., c. 5.)

115-167. State Board of Education to make rules and regulations; method of enforcement. It shall be the duty of the State Board of Education to formulate such rules and regulations as may be necessary for the proper enforcement of the provisions of this Article. The Board shall prescribe what shall constitute truancy, what causes may constitute legitimate excuses for temporary nonattendance due to physical or mental inability to attend, and under what circumstances teachers, principals, or superintendents may excuse pupils for nonattendance due to immediate demands of the farm or the home in certain seasons of the year in the several sections of the State. It shall be the duty of all school officials to carry out such instructions from the State Board of Education, and any school official failing to carry out such instructions shall be guilty of a misdemeanor: Provided, that the compulsory attendance law herein prescribed shall not be in force in any city or county that has a higher compulsory attendance feature than that provided herein. (1955, c. 1372, art. 20, s. 2.)