

TITLE: Students - Elementary/Secondary - Ages of Attendance
State Board of Education Ref: 18-8-1

The fact that school attendance is not compulsory after the age of sixteen presents a problem in the secondary schools. There are some youths over sixteen in the secondary schools whose irregular attendance hinders the work of other students and presents discipline problems.

Although public schools are open to all youths until they are twenty-one years of age, Chapter 18, Article 8 of the West Virginia Code gives the county Board of Education authority to exclude or expel a pupil suspended from school because of improper conduct or refusal of such child to comply with the requirements of the school.

The classroom teacher is the key person in the attendance program. If the classroom teacher makes the work of the classroom interesting and teaches pupils on their level, the problem of poor attendance will be greatly reduced. When pupils are expected to do work beyond their ability, they find numerous excuses for staying out of school.

The teacher or principal can also help improve attendance by making frequent checks on absentees. Teachers each day shall report all pupil absences to the principal's office. The teacher and/or principal should make a reasonable effort to find out the reason(s) for pupil absences before reporting the pupil to the attendance director.

"Compulsory school attendance shall begin with the (sixth) birthday and continue to the sixteenth birthday". Chapter 18, Article 8, Paragraph 1 of the West Virginia Code.

APPROVED

JUN 13 1994

GILMER COUNTY
BOARD OF EDUCATION