

## STUDENT ATTENDANCE

### **A. Eligibility:**

All students who will be at least 5 years old on October 15 of the school year and who has not reached age 20 before July 1 of the school year and whose parents are residents of the town shall be entitled to attend the public schools. Any student between the ages of 18 and 20 whose parents do not reside in the town shall be eligible to attend the public schools if the student is a bona-fide resident of the town.

Upon recommendation of the high school principal, any resident over the age of 20 who is qualified and who will benefit from the instruction may be admitted to study in the public school, with the approval of the School Committee.

### **I. Requirement:**

All students 7 years of age or older and under the age of 17 shall attend a public school during the time it is in regular session.

### **II. Exceptions:** Attendance at school shall not be required of the following:

- A. A person who graduates from high school before that person's 17<sup>th</sup> birthday
- B. A person who has:
  - (1) Reached the age of 15 years or completed the 9<sup>th</sup> grade;
  - (2) Permission to leave school from that person's parent;
  - (3) Been approved by the principal for a suitable program of work and study or training;
  - (4) Permission to leave school from the school board or its designee;
  - (5) Agreed in writing with that person's parent and the school board or its designee to meet annually until that person's 17<sup>th</sup> birthday to review that person's educational needs. When the request to be excused from school has been denied pursuant to this paragraph, the student's parent may appeal to the commissioner.
- C. A person whose absence is excused under section 5051. The parent of a habitual truant who has been denied a waiver of this paragraph, may appeal to the commissioner in accordance with section 5051, subsection 2, paragraph E; or
- D. A person who has matriculated and is attending an accredited, post-secondary, degree-granting institution as a full-time student. An exception to attendance in public school under this paragraph must be approved by the commissioner.

Legal Reference: Title 20A MRSA Sec. 5001-A, 5051

Adopted: Prior to 1984

Revised: January 17, 2001