

COMPULSORY ATTENDANCE

Parents within the school district who have children over age four (4) and enrolled in the statewide preschool program, over age five (5) and enrolled in the district's junior kindergarten or kindergarten program or age six (6) and under age sixteen (16) by September 15, in proper physical and mental condition to attend school, will have the children attend the school district at the attendance center designated by the board. Students will attend school the number of days school is in session in accordance with the school calendar. Students of compulsory attendance age will attend school a minimum of 175 days or in the case of preschool or junior kindergarten, a student will attend school a minimum of 142 days. Students over age four (4) on September 15 and enrolled in the statewide preschool program and students over age five (5) on September 15 and enrolled in the district's junior kindergarten or kindergarten program, may not attend the minimum days only if the student's parent notifies the district in writing of the parent's intent to remove the child from the preschool program and/or from enrollment in the district. Students of compulsory attendance age, students over age six (6) and under age sixteen (16) on September 15, may not attend the minimum days only if the student fails into one of the following exemptions:

- has completed the requirements for graduation in an accredited school or have obtained a high school equivalency diploma;
- is attending religious services or receiving religious instruction;
- is attending an approved or probationally approved private college preparatory school;
- is attending an accredited nonpublic school;
- is receiving competent private instruction; or
- are receiving competent private instruction.

It is the responsibility of the parent of a child to provide evidence of the child's mental and physical inability to attend school or of the child's qualifications for one of the exceptions listed above.

The principal or other school official will investigate the cause of a student's truancy. If the principal or other school official is unable to secure the truant student's attendance, the principal or other school official should discuss the next step with the school board. If after school board action, the student is still truant, the principal or other school official will refer the matter over to the county attorney for students of compulsory attendance age.

The school will participate in mediation if requested by the county attorney. The superintendent will represent the school district in mediation. The school district will monitor the student's compliance with the mediation agreement and will report violations of the mediation agreement to the county attorney.

Legal Reference: Iowa Code §§ 239.5B; 259A; 279.10-.11; Ch. 299; 299A (2010).
441 I.A.C. 41.25(8).
1978 Op. Att'y. Gen. 379.

Cross Reference: 501 Student Attendance
601.1 School Calendar
604.1 Competent Private Instruction

Approved 7/24/19 Reviewed 6/19/19 Revised _____

MONTEZUMA COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD OF DIRECTORS