

# SOUTH CAROLINA SCHOOL ATTENDANCE LAWS

**Section 59-65-10:** All parents shall cause their children or wards to attend regularly a public or private school or kindergarten of this state which has been approved by the State Board of Education or a member school of the South Carolina Independent School Association or some similar organization, or a parochial, denominational, or church related school, or other programs which have been approved by the State Board of Education from the school year in which the child or ward is five years of age before September first until the child or ward attains his seventeenth birthday or graduates from high school.

**Section 59-65-20:** Any parent or guardian who neglects to enroll his child or ward or refuses to make such child or ward attend school shall, upon conviction, be fined not more than fifty dollars or be imprisoned not more than thirty days; each day's absence shall constitute a separate offense; provided, the court may in its discretion suspend the sentence of anyone convicted of the provisions of the article.

**Section 59-65-70:** If the court determines that the reported absence occurred without the knowledge, consent or connivance of the responsible parent or guardian or that a bona fide attempt has been made to control and keep the child in school, the court may declare such child to be a delinquent and subject to the provisions of the law in such cases.

*Should the parent(s) or guardian(s) refuse to cooperate with the intervention planning to remedy the attendance problem, the school district has the authority to refer the student to Family Court in accordance with SC Code Ann. 59-65-50, and a report shall be filed against the parent(s) or guardian(s) with the Department of Social Services (DSS) in compliance with SC Code Ann 20-7-490.*

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The above laws have been explained and I/we have received a copy of this document. I/we understand my/our responsibilities and will comply with the Laws.

**Parent/Guardian** \_\_\_\_\_

**Parent/Guardian** \_\_\_\_\_

**Student** \_\_\_\_\_

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**School Official and Title**

**Date**

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**COUNTY BOARD REVIEW: (County Board use only)**

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**Attendance/Dropout Prevention Coordinator**  
**Revised 2024-2025**

**Date**