

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF EDUCATION

BULLETIN, 1928, No. 20

LAWS
RELATING TO COMPULSORY
EDUCATION

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UNITED STATES
GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE
WASHINGTON
1929

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LAWS RELATING TO COMPULSORY EDUCATION

In Force July 1, 1928

INTRODUCTION

In this country it is not enough to have free public education. Education is not only free and public, but it is compulsory in all continental United States and in its principal outlying parts. It would be difficult to say when and where the idea of compulsory education originated. The notion of making education compulsory existed in Germany, however, at the time of the Reformation. The Reformation stood among other things for universal education supported and controlled by the State. A century before the Pilgrim Fathers landed in America, Luther propounded to the Elector of Saxony the proposition that, "Government, as the natural guardian of all the young, has the right to compel the people to support schools."¹ Before the Pilgrims left the Mayflower they passed the following resolution: "We have come to this new world that we may educate our children."² The history of education in New England bears witness to the result. These early settlers gave the primal, rudimentary conception of compulsory education in America. Under the Colony charter of Massachusetts Bay, among the first legislative acts, are recorded the following characteristic preamble and law:

For as much as the good education of children is of singular behoof and benefit to any commonwealth, and whereas many parents and masters are too indulgent and negligent in that kind;

It is ordered, that the selectmen of every town in the several precincts and quarters where they dwell shall have a vigilant eye over their brethren and neighbours, to see:

First, that none of them shall suffer so much barbarism in any of their families as not to endeavour to teach, by themselves or others, their children and apprentices, so much learning as may enable them perfectly to read the English tongue and knowledge of the capital laws.³

This law is illustrative of the earliest legislative provisions relating to the subject.

In 1642 the General Court of Massachusetts Colony ordered that the chosen administrative officers of every town should be charged with the duty and power to take account of parents and their children,

¹ Adams, Francis, *Free school system of the United States*, p. 45; *Indiana Rept.*, 1872, p. 12.

² Taylor, J. O., see *Proceedings of a meeting at the Capitol of the United States*, 1838, p. 72.

³ Carter, James G., *Free schools of New England; Colony laws*, ch. 22, sec. 1.

"Concerning their calling and employment of their children, especially of their ability to read and understand the principles of religion and the capital laws of their country." The order imposed fines upon any refusing to render such accounts as shall be required by the administrative officers. This law was supplemented by further order of the court in 1647, which required every town with 50 families to provide a schoolmaster to teach all children who "shall resort to him, to write and read"; and which furthermore required every town of 100 families to "sett up a grammar schoole." These orders sprang from the conviction that all children should be educated, and that the parent, community, and State should be jointly charged with this responsibility. They embodied the principles upon which modern compulsory education rests and became the basis of the public-school system of Massachusetts and the prototype of similar State systems throughout the United States.

Great educational and social problems had been inaugurated by the Boston fathers upon which subsequent generations have had to work. The idea that it was the duty of the State to compel all children to acquire a minimum of education was of slow growth, and little or no progress therein was made for the next 200 years; and it is only in comparatively recent times that all States have adopted laws embodying this principal. An ideal had been expressed, but many obstacles interfered with its development. Compulsory education was objected to by many as monarchical in its origin and history, and the difficulties which were attached to colonial and pioneer life were unfavorable for its development. Furthermore, free public schools had not yet been established. However, the years between 1836 and 1860 were accompanied by great industrial development, territorial expansion, and an educational awakening. By this time free public schools had been generally established. Under these fertile conditions, the compulsory education plant showed newness of life. Horace Mann gave special attention in his reports to the evils of noneducation and truancy, and by 1850 public opinion in Massachusetts had been sufficiently aroused to pass a truancy law. This was followed in 1852 by a compulsory school attendance act. Compulsory education had then taken root and form. The problems of formulating effective compulsory educational laws have confronted legislators and school officials since that time to the present day. The success which has crowned the efforts in this direction has been truly remarkable.

Our profound faith in education is the best explanation of this advance. The conviction of the American people is that "the cultivated mind is the guardian genius of democracy." "Intelligence," said Daniel Webster, "has reared the majestic columns of our national glory, and this alone can prevent them from crumbling into ashes."

The benefits of compulsory education are too clear to admit of argument.

The working out of the principle of democracy has been an impelling force throughout the history of our country. Here our statesmen and educators have joined liberty and learning in a perpetual alliance. They have made democracy and education coextensive by making both universal. Through enlightened public opinion and well-principled moral sentiment, we hope for a security in democracy beyond the law, and above the law. Through the improvement of our educational ideals and standards and their universal application we shall approach the better democracy which we cherish and to which we are dedicated.

The pertinent question now before all progressive communities is, how can educational systems be made more effective?

AIM AND METHOD

The aim in this study is to present in a summary manner what appear to be the most interesting legislative features of compulsory education systems in the various States. When did the several States first enact compulsory education laws? What are the various ages at which children are admitted and required to attend school? What educational requirements are necessary to exempt them from attendance? How much education is required for labor permits? What States require educational relief to dependent or neglected children? How much school attendance is required in the various States? What States provide for compulsory attendance at part-time, continuation, or evening schools? To what extent do States require the education of handicapped children? What constitutes the machinery for enforcing compulsory education in the various States? These are but few of the questions often asked by school administrators, teachers, and others in the States; these are also among the many questions this study endeavors to answer. It is not the aim here to discuss the relative merits of the various features of compulsory education laws found in the different States; the aim is rather to present briefly and clearly what seem to be some interesting features of such laws as enacted by the States. The aim is to present as many of these features as practical; and to do so, discussion of the same has been limited mainly to appropriate explanatory notes and remarks. There may be rules relative to school attendance adopted by various school boards or superintendents which are not shown here, as attention has been given chiefly to legislative enactments.

The method followed in this attempt consisted in the preparation in this bureau of a summary of various features of compulsory education laws in all the States. A digest of some of these features

was prepared for each State and transmitted to the respective State departments of education for review, with a request for any changes that might be deemed necessary in order that it might include recent and complete legislation on the subject. The responses from the State departments came promptly and aided considerably in the preparation and worth of this bulletin.

For the purpose of this study, the District of Columbia is treated as a State.

DATE OF ENACTMENT, AGES AFFECTED, AND ATTENDANCE REQUIRED

Date of Enactment of First Compulsory Attendance Law in Each State

Massachusetts.....	1852	Rhode Island.....	1883	Iowa.....	1902
District of Columbia.....	1864	Illinois.....	1883	Maryland.....	1902
Vermont.....	1867	North Dakota.....	1883	Missouri.....	1905
New Hampshire.....	1871	South Dakota.....	1883	Tennessee.....	1905
Michigan.....	1871	Montana.....	1883	Delaware.....	1907
Washington.....	1871	Minnesota.....	1885	North Carolina.....	1907
Connecticut.....	1872	Nebraska.....	1887	Oklahoma.....	1907
Nevada.....	1873	Idaho.....	1887	Virginia.....	1908
New York.....	1874	Colorado.....	1889	Arkansas.....	1909
Kansas.....	1874	Oregon.....	1889	Louisiana.....	1910
California.....	1874	Utah.....	1890	Alabama.....	1915
Maine.....	1875	New Mexico.....	1891	Florida.....	1915
New Jersey.....	1875	Pennsylvania.....	1895	South Carolina.....	1915
Wyoming.....	1876	Kentucky.....	1896	Texas.....	1915
Ohio.....	1877	West Virginia.....	1897	Georgia.....	1916
Wisconsin.....	1879	Indiana.....	1897	Mississippi.....	1918
		Arizona.....	1899		

¹ The Texas law of 1873, establishing a free public School System, contained a compulsory school attendance provision. This law was somewhat ineffective and unsatisfactory at that time and was superseded by other legislation in 1876 which omitted the compulsory school attendance provision.

Age limits for compulsory regular school attendance

Ages	Number of States	Ages	Number of States
7-16.....	20	6-16.....	1
8-16.....	10	6-18.....	1
7-17.....	4	9-15.....	1
8-14.....	4	8-17.....	1
8-18.....	3	7-15.....	1
7-14.....	1	Total.....	6
7-18.....	1		

Age limits for compulsory part-time, continuation, or evening school attendance

Ages	Number of States	Ages	Number of States
14-16.....	13	Under 17.....	1
14-18.....	2	12-16.....	1
16-21 (for illiterates).....	3	Total.....	2
16-18.....	2		
Under 18.....	2		

Minimum age for compulsory school attendance

The average minimum age for compulsory attendance is 7.36.
Two States make age of 6 the minimum: New Mexico and Ohio.
Twenty-eight States make age of 7 the minimum:

Arkansas.	Iowa.	Mississippi.	Rhode Island.
Connecticut.	Kansas.	Missouri.	Tennessee.
Delaware.	Kentucky.	Nebraska.	Virginia. ¹
District of Columbia.	Louisiana.	Nevada.	West Virginia.
Florida.	Maine.	New Jersey.	Wisconsin.
Illinois.	Maryland.	New York.	Wyoming.
Indiana.	Massachusetts.	North Carolina.	
	Michigan.	North Dakota.	

Eighteen States make age of 8 the minimum:

Alabama.	Idaho.	Pennsylvania.	Vermont.
Arizona.	Minnesota.	South Carolina.	Virginia. ¹
California.	Montana.	South Dakota.	Washington.
Colorado.	New Hampshire.	Texas.	
Georgia.	Oklahoma.	Utah.	

One State makes age of 9 the minimum: Oregon.

Maximum ages for compulsory regular school attendance

The average maximum age for compulsory regular school attendance is 16.

Five States require attendance until 18:

Idaho.	Ohio.	Oklahoma.	Utah.
Nevada.			

Five States require attendance until 17:

Delaware.	Maryland.	North Dakota.	South Dakota.
Maine.			

Thirty-one States require attendance until 16:

Alabama.	Illinois.	Mississippi.	Pennsylvania.
Arizona.	Indiana.	Missouri.	Rhode Island.
California.	Iowa.	Montana.	Tennessee.
Colorado.	Kansas.	Nebraska.	Vermont.
Connecticut.	Kentucky.	New Hampshire.	Washington.
District of Columbia.	Massachusetts.	New Jersey.	West Virginia.
Florida.	Michigan.	New Mexico.	Wisconsin.
	Minnesota.	New York.	Wyoming.

Three States require attendance until 15: Arkansas, Oregon, and Virginia.¹

Five States require attendance until 14:

Georgia.	North Carolina.	South Carolina.	Texas.
Louisiana.			

¹See compulsory education provisions by States, p. 62.

Number of years of regular school attendance required

The average number of years required is 8.65. One State requires 12 years: Ohio.

One State requires 11 years: Nevada.

Eight States require 10 years:

Delaware.	Maine.	New Mexico.	Oklahoma
Idaho.	Maryland.	North Dakota.	Utah.

Twenty-one States require 9 years:

Connecticut.	Iowa.	Missouri.	South Dakota.
District of Columbia.	Kansas.	Nebraska.	Tennessee.
Florida.	Kentucky.	New Jersey.	West Virginia.
Illinois.	Massachusetts.	New York.	Wisconsin.
Indiana.	Michigan.	Rhode Island.	Wyoming.
	Mississippi.		

Twelve States require 8 years:

Alabama.	California.	Montana.	Vermont.
Arizona.	Colorado.	New Hampshire.	Virginia.
Arkansas.	Minnesota.	Pennsylvania.	Washington.

Two States require 7 years: Louisiana and North Carolina.

Four States require 6 years:

Georgia.	Oregon.	South Carolina.	Texas.
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Minimum term of required attendance

The average minimum annual school term required is 7.23 months.

One State requires 38 weeks: Connecticut.

Eight States require 9 months:

District of Columbia.	Montana. ¹	New Hampshire.	New York.
Maryland.	Nebraska. ²	New Jersey.	Rhode Island.

Eighteen States require 8 months:

Arizona.	Massachusetts.	Pennsylvania.	Washington.
California.	Missouri.	South Dakota.	West Virginia.
Delaware.	Nevada.	Tennessee.	Wisconsin.
Iowa.	Ohio.	Vermont (8½	Wyoming.
Kansas.	Oregon.	months).	

Eleven States require 7 months:

Idaho.	Louisiana.	Michigan.	North Dakota.
Illinois.	Maine (7½	Minnesota.	South Carolina. ³
Kentucky.	months).	New Mexico.	Virginia.

Six States require 6 months:

Arkansas.	Georgia.	North Carolina.	Texas.
Colorado.	Indiana.		

¹ Four months in third-class district.

² Six months in districts with less than 10 pupils.

³ Except in any district where school tax is less than 8 mills and monthly attendance is less than 15, in which case 8 months is required.

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One State requires 5 months: Utah.
 Two States require 4 months: Florida and Mississippi.
 One State requires 3 months: Oklahoma.
 One State has no minimum school term: Alabama.

Summary of ages affected and amount of attendance required

State	Regular school attendance age	Part-time or evening school attendance age	Years required to attend regular school	Years required by part-time or evening school law ¹	Total years attendance required	Minimum annual attendance required (months)	Total attendance required (months)
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Alabama	8-16		8		8	(²)	
Arizona	8-16	14-16	8	0	8	8	64
Arkansas	7-15		8		8	6	48
California	8-16	14-18	8	2	10	8	(³) 64
Colorado	8-16	14-18	8	0	8	6	48
Connecticut	7-16	14-18	9	0	9	9	81
Delaware	7-17	13-16	10	0	10	8	80
District of Columbia	7-16		9		9	9	81
Florida	7-16	14-16	9	0	9	4	36
Georgia	8-15		6		6	6	36
Idaho	8-18		10		10	7	70
Illinois	7-16	14-18	9	2	11	7	(³) 77
Indiana	7-16	14-16	9	0	9	6	54
Iowa	7-16	14-16	9	0	9	8	72
Kansas	7-16		9		9	8	72
Kentucky	7-16	14-16	9	0	9	7	63
Louisiana	7-14		7		7	7	49
Maine	7-17		10		10	7	70
Maryland	7-17		10		10	9	90
Massachusetts	7-16	14-16	9	0	9	8	72
Michigan	7-16	Under 17	9	1	10	7	(³) 70
Minnesota	8-16		8		8	7	56
Mississippi	7-16		9		9	4	36
Missouri	7-16	Under 18	9	2	11	8	(³) 88
Montana	8-18	14-18	8	2	10	9	(³) 90
Nebraska	7-16	14-16	9	0	9	9	81
Nevada	7-18	14-18	11	0	11	8	88
New Hampshire	8-16	16-21	8		8	9	72
New Jersey	7-16	14-16	9	0	9	9	81
New Mexico	6-16		10		10	7	70
New York	7-16	14-18	9	2	11	9	(³) 99
North Carolina	7-14		7		7	6	42
North Dakota	7-17		10		10	7	70
Ohio	6-18	Under 18	12	0	12	9	94
Oklahoma	8-18	16-18	10	0	10	3	30
Oregon	9-15	14-18	6	3	9	8	(³) 72
Pennsylvania	8-16	14-16	8	0	8	8	64
Rhode Island	7-16	16-21	9		9	9	81
South Carolina	8-14		6		6	7	42
South Dakota	8-17	16-21	9		9	6	54
Tennessee	7-16	14-16	9	0	9	8	72
Texas	8-14		6		6	6	36
Utah	8-18	16-18	10	0	10	5	50
Vermont	8-16		8		8	8	64
Virginia	7-15		8		8	7	56
Washington	8-16	14-18	8		8	8	64
West Virginia	7-16	14-18	9	0	9	8	72
Wisconsin	7-16	14-18	9	2	11	8	(³) 72
Wyoming	7-16		9		9	8	72

¹ Applies only where part-time, continuation, or evening schools are established.
² Full term, minimum length not fixed.
³ For illiterates.
⁴ See Compulsory education by States, p. 68.



Consecutive Attendance

It appears that consecutive attendance is required (by express or implied provision) in all the States except Alabama, Arkansas, Delaware, Louisiana, Mississippi, South Carolina, and Texas.

PART-TIME EDUCATION

Compulsory attendance at part-time, continuation, or evening schools¹

State	Kind of school	Number necessary to establish	Establishment compulsory or optional	Attendance age	Education necessary to excuse from attendance
1	2	3	4	5	6
Arizona.....	Part-time.....	15	Compulsory, where 15 or more employment certificates have been issued.	14-16	Completion of grammar-school course.
California.....	do.....	12	Compulsory in high-school districts with enrollment of 50 in high school living within 3 miles	14-18	Completion of 4-year high-school or equivalent.
Do.....	Evening.....	20	Compulsory, where 20 or more persons 18 to 21 are illiterate	18-21	Read, speak, write English language with proficiency required for completion of sixth grade.
Colorado.....	"Night school".....			14-16	Read and write English language.
Connecticut.....	Continuation.....	20	Compulsory in districts with 10,000 or more population.	14-16	Completion of eighth grade.
Delaware.....	Part-time.....	15	Compulsory; where 15 or more hold employment certificates.	12-16	None mentioned.
Florida.....	do.....	15	Compulsory, when Federal funds are available for teachers' salaries.	14-16	Do.
Illinois.....	Part-time or continuation.....	20	Optional ²	14-18	Completion of 4-year high-school course.
Indiana.....	Part-time.....		Optional ²	14-16	Completion of sixth grade.
Iowa.....	do.....	15	Compulsory in districts with 12,000 or more population; allowed in smaller districts.	14-16	None mentioned.
Kentucky.....	Continuation.....		Optional ²	14-16	Completion of eighth grade.
Massachusetts.....	do.....	200	Compulsory in districts where 200 or more between 14 and 16 are employed; optional elsewhere.	14-16	None mentioned.
Do.....	Evening.....	20	Compulsory where 20 or more persons 16 to 21 with less than sixth grade education licensed to work.	16-21	Completion of sixth grade or its equivalent.
Michigan.....	Part-time.....	50	Compulsory in districts with 5,000 or more population; optional elsewhere.	Under 17.	Completion of 2 years of 4-year high-school course or equivalent.

¹ In all States providing part-time education it appears that attendance in regular public or approved private school for the required time is acceptable in lieu of part-time, continuation, or evening school attendance; but where minors are employed or for some reason are not attending regular day school, and where part-time or continuation schools are provided, attendance therein is compulsory, unless excused for physical or mental disability or for educational attainments shown above.

The amount of attendance required in part-time, continuation, or evening schools in the different States varies from 4 to 8 hours per week and generally extends over the same period as that of the regular public schools.

² Attendance compulsory where such schools are maintained.

³ If such schools are maintained, attendance may be required by local school authorities.

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Compulsory attendance at part-time, continuation, or evening school—Continued

State	Kind of school	Number necessary to establish	Establishment compulsory or optional	Attendance age	Education necessary to excuse from attendance
1	2	3	4	5	6
Missouri.....	Part-time.....	25	Compulsory in districts where 25 or more minors under 16 are licensed to work.	Under 16.*	Completion of elementary school course.
Montana.....	do.....	16	Compulsory where 15 or more between 14 to 18 have entered employment.	14-18	Completion of high-school course.
Nebraska.....	do.....	15	Compulsory where 15 or more 14 to 16 are employed.	14-16	Graduated from high school.
Do.....	Evening.....			14-16	Completion of eighth grade.
Nevada.....	Part-time.....	15	Compulsory where 15 or more between 14 and 18 are employed.	14-18	Completion of eighth grade and excused for a specific reason by local board of education.
New Hampshire.....	Evening or special day.....	15	Compulsory if 15 or more are illiterate.	16-21	"Read and speak English understandingly."
New Jersey.....	Continuation.....	20	Compulsory if 20 or more are illiterate.	Above 21.	
New Mexico.....	Part-time.....	20	Compulsory in certain districts when requested.	14-16	None mentioned.
New York.....	Part-time or continuation.....	15	Compulsory where 15 employment certificates have been issued to children 14 to 16.	14-16	Do.
New York.....	Part-time or continuation.....	200	Compulsory in districts with 200 minors, 14 to 18, not regularly attending full-time day school; optional else where.	14-18	Completion of 4-year secondary course.
Ohio.....	Part-time.....		Optional ¹	Under 18.	Completions of course given in part-time school or high-school course.
Oklahoma.....	do.....	20	Compulsory where 20 or more 16 to 18 are employed.	16-18	Completion of common school plus two years of high school.
Oregon.....	do.....	15	Compulsory where 15 or more between 14 and 18 are employed.	14-18	None mentioned.
Pennsylvania.....	Continuation.....	20	Compulsory where 20 or more children are eligible attend.	14-16	Do.
Rhode Island.....	Evening.....	20	Compulsory where 20 or more persons 16 to 21 are illiterate.	16-21	"Reasonable facility in speaking, reading, and writing the English language."
South Dakota.....	do.....		Compulsory when directed by State superintendent.	16-21	Speak, read, write English language with proficiency required for completion of sixth grade.
Tennessee.....	Part-time.....		Optional ¹	14-18	None mentioned.
Utah.....	do.....	15	Compulsory when 15 or more children would be subject to attendance.	16-18	Completed work of senior high school.
Utah.....	Evening.....		May be required by State board of education.	16-35	Speak, read and write English as is required for completion of fifth grade.
Washington.....	Part-time.....	15	Optional ¹	14-18	Completion of a 4-year high-school course or equivalent.

* Attendance compulsory where such schools are maintained.
 † Under 18 if have not completed elementary school course.
 ‡ Not barred above 16.
 § Minors between 14 and 18 and requested by 25 adults.

Compulsory attendance at part-time, continuation, or evening schools—Continued

State	Kind of school	Number necessary to establish	Establishment compulsory or optional	Attendance age	Education necessary to excuse from attendance
1	2	3	4	5	6
West Virginia...	Part-time.....	50	Compulsory in cities with 10,000 or more population; also where 50 or more 14-16 not in regular school attendance.	14-16	Completion of eighth grade.
Wisconsin.....	do.....		Compulsory in towns with over 5,000 population.	14-18	Completion of 4-year high school or equivalent.
	Evening.....		Optional.....	Over 17.	Read and write simple sentences.

EXEMPTIONS*Minimum Amount of Education Necessary to Exempt from School Attendance*

Four States require completion of high-school course:

New York. Nebraska.¹ Nevada. Ohio.

Thirty-nine States require completion of elementary school course:

Alabama.	Georgia.	Michigan. ²	South Dakota.
Arizona.	Idaho.	Minnesota.	Tennessee.
Arkansas.	Illinois.	Mississippi.	Texas.
California. ³	Indiana.	Missouri.	Utah. ³
Colorado.	Iowa.	Montana. ²	Vermont.
Connecticut.	Kansas.	New Hampshire.	Virginia.
Delaware.	Kentucky.	North Dakota.	Washington. ³
District of Columbia.	Louisiana.	Oklahoma. ²	West Virginia.
Florida.	Maine.	Oregon.	Wisconsin. ²
	Maryland.	Rhode Island.	Wyoming.

Six States do not specify amount necessary:

Massachusetts. New Mexico. Pennsylvania. South Carolina.
New Jersey. North Carolina.

Minimum Amount of Education Necessary for Labor Permits

I. The average amount of education required throughout the United States for labor permits under the present laws is equivalent to the fifth grade.

¹ Where high schools or schools of equal grade are maintained.

² Require completion of high-school course where part-time or continuation schools are provided in order to exempt from school attendance, except Oklahoma and Michigan which require two years of high school course.

H. Seventeen States require eighth grade:

Delaware.	Kansas.	Nevada.	Washington.
District of Columbia.	Maine.	North Dakota.	Wisconsin.
Indiana.	Minnesota.	Rhode Island.	Wyoming.
Iowa.	Montana.	Utah.	
	Nebraska.	Vermont.	

III. Four States require seventh grade:

California.	Maryland.	Ohio.	Texas.
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IV. Eight States require sixth grade:

Alabama.	Illinois.	Michigan.	Pennsylvania.
Connecticut.	Massachusetts.	New York.	West Virginia.

V. Three States require fifth grade:

Arizona.	Kentucky.	New Jersey. ¹
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VI. Two States require fourth-grade education: Arkansas and North Carolina.

VII. Eight States require ability to read and write:

Colorado.	Georgia.	Oklahoma.	South Dakota.
Florida.	New Hampshire.	Oregon.	Tennessee (implied).

VIII. Seven States have no educational requirements:

Idaho.	Mississippi.	New Mexico.	Virginia.
Louisiana.	Missouri.	South Carolina.	

Exemptions on Account of Distance

Twenty-two States have provisions for exemptions on account of distance from school under certain conditions.²

Alabama.	Minnesota.	North Dakota.	Utah.
California.	Mississippi.	Oregon.	Virginia.
Florida.	Montana.	Pennsylvania.	West Virginia.
Iowa.	Nevada.	South Carolina.	Wisconsin.
Louisiana.	New Mexico.	Tennessee.	
Michigan.	North Carolina.	Texas.	

The distance required to exempt varies in different States. (See section on Compulsory Education Provisions by States, p. 35.)

Exemption of Dependent Children

Eighteen States have provisions for exemption from school attendance for poverty reasons under certain conditions.³

Arkansas.	Louisiana.	South Carolina.	Vermont.
Colorado. ⁴	Montana. ⁴	South Dakota.	Washington.
Connecticut.	Nebraska. ⁴	Tennessee.	West Virginia.
Florida.	Nevada. ⁴	Texas.	
Idaho. ⁵	North Dakota.	Utah.	

¹ Sixth grade after Sept. 1, 1929.

² Where free transportation is provided exemption is generally denied.

³ Where clothes or books or other articles necessary to attend school are furnished, exemption is generally denied.

⁴ If child is 14 years old.

⁵ If child is 15 years old.

Indefinite Exemptions

Fifteen States have indefinite provisions relating to exemptions (for reasons satisfactory to local school authorities, etc.):

Arizona.	Florida.	Maryland.	Rhode Island.
Delaware.	Illinois.	Massachusetts.	South Carolina.
Dist. Columbia.	Indiana.	Mississippi.	West Virginia. ¹
Georgia.	Maine.	New Hampshire.	

Exemption for Church Observances

Eight States provide by legislation, subject to certain limitations, exemption from school attendance in order to attend or comply with church observances:

Dist. Columbia.	Iowa.	Minnesota.	South Dakota
Illinois.	Michigan.	Oregon.	West Virginia.

EDUCATIONAL RELIEF OF DEPENDENT OR NEGLECTED CHILDREN

Thirty-three States have mandatory laws relating to public educational relief for dependent or neglected children. In these States relief necessary for such children to attend school, such as clothing, books, etc., must under various conditions be given. States which require that such relief be given are:

Alabama.	Kentucky.	Nevada.	Pennsylvania.
Arkansas.	Kansas. ²	New Hampshire.	Rhode Island.
California. ¹	Maryland.	New Jersey. ⁴	South Carolina. ⁵
Colorado.	Massachusetts.	New York.	South Dakota.
Florida.	Minnesota.	North Carolina.	Tennessee.
Georgia.	Mississippi.	North Dakota.	Texas. ⁶
Illinois.	Missouri.	Ohio.	Vermont.
Indiana.	Montana.	Oklahoma.	Virginia.
Iowa. ³			

Fourteen States have laws of a permissive type which authorize public educational relief for dependent or neglected children; they are:

Arizona.	Louisiana.	New Mexico.	Washington.
Connecticut.	Maine.	Oregon.	West Virginia.
Delaware.	Michigan.	Utah.	Wisconsin.
Idaho.	Nebraska.		

As a rule whenever public aid is given (whether required or authorized), or when private aid is given to dependent or neglected children of school age, they are required to attend school, unless excused for other reasons. Some of the States which grant pensions to dependent

¹ Implied (not stated).

² Applies to children in private or State institution.

³ Applies to children in county "Detention Home."

⁴ Where special schools for such children are established.

⁵ Upon order of county board of education.

⁶ If in State Home for Dependent and Neglected Children.

mothers require by legislative or administrative act that mothers, in order to receive pension, must keep their children in school or that they otherwise receive instruction, providing they are of proper school age. Some of the States which have such provisions are Florida, Pennsylvania, Oklahoma, and West Virginia.

Ages of children affected by compulsory education legislation relating to handicapped children

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
States	Blind	Deaf	Mute	Crippled	Feeble-minded	Delinquents ¹
Alabama.....						X
Arizona.....	(1)	(1)	(1)			X
Arkansas.....						X
California.....	6-16	6-16	(1)	6-16	(1)	X
Colorado.....	6-17	6-17			(1)	X
Connecticut.....						X
Delaware.....	4-16	4-16	4-16	4-16	(1)	X
Dist. Columbia.....	7-18					X
Florida.....					(1)	X
Georgia.....	(1)	(1)	(1)			X
Idaho.....					(1)	X
Illinois.....	(1)	(1)			(1)	X
Indiana.....	8-18	8-18		7-16	(1)	X
Iowa.....	7-18	7-18		(1)		X
Iowa.....	7-19	7-19				X
Kansas.....	7-21	7-21	7-21			X
Kentucky.....		7-16				X
Louisiana.....						X
Maine.....	(11)	(11)	(11)	(11)	(1) (11)	X
Maryland.....	6-18	6-18	6-18			X
Massachusetts.....	(12)	(12)	(12)	(12)	(12)	X
Michigan.....						X
Minnesota.....	7-19	7-18		(13)		X
Mississippi.....		8-20	8-20	(1)	(14)	X
Missouri.....	(15)	(15)	(15)			X
Missouri.....	7-14	7-14		7-14	7-14	X
Montana.....	8-16	8-16				X
Nebraska.....						X
Nevada.....	7-20	7-20				X
New Hampshire.....	(16)	(16)	(16)			X
New Jersey.....					(1)	X
New Mexico.....	(17)	(17)	(17)	(17)	(17)	X
New Mexico.....	8-21	8-21	8-21			X

¹ Delinquents as used here refers to minors who are habitual truants, or incorrigible, or who have committed some crime and who have been committed to a parental or State reformatory school or other institution for such children; the check (x) marks under this column indicate the States providing schools for such children.

² Blind and deaf and dumb children must be enumerated annually, and the "State board of education shall enter into contract" with proper institution for the education of the blind.

³ May be committed to State institution.

⁴ Ages 6-16 implied.

⁵ "Any minor who can not profit by such (regular) instruction."

⁶ "No educationally exceptional child shall be deprived of school privileges except with the express approval of the secretary of the State board of education, and every child so excluded shall be brought immediately to the attention of the proper authorities to insure adequate protection and training for the child."

⁷ State must provide for their education.

⁸ Census of blind and deaf children must be taken and reported to State superintendent.

⁹ State aid required under certain conditions.

¹⁰ Age inclusive.

¹¹ Attendance compulsory for "mentally, morally, or physically deficient children in special classes or schools organized and maintained by the parish school boards for their benefit."

¹² "No physical or mental condition capable of correction, or rendering the child a fit subject for special instruction at public charge, shall avail as a defense" for failure to attend school.

¹³ State and local districts must provide for their education under certain conditions.

¹⁴ All "educable children" must be enumerated.

¹⁵ Compulsory where special classes are provided for them.

¹⁶ County and State school officials are required to make provisions, at the expense of the county and State, for the education of any such child when upon application for such it is shown that the parent or guardian is unable to pay for the education of said child.

¹⁷ In any district where there are 5 or more blind, or 10 or more deaf, or 10 or more crippled, or 10 or more years of age or more below normal, who are not cared for in an institution, the board of education thereof shall establish a special class or classes for their instruction.



Ages of children affected by compulsory education legislation relating to handicapped children—Continued

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
States	Blind	Deaf	Mute	Crippled	Feeble-minded	Delinquents
New York.....	(10)	(10)	(11)	(11)		X
North Carolina.....	7-18	7-18			1 6-21	X
North Dakota.....	7-21	7-21			7-21	X
Ohio.....	6-18	6-18	6-18	6-18	6-18	X
Oklahoma.....		7-21				X
Oregon.....	8-18	8-18	8-18	6-18	(2)	X
Pennsylvania.....	6-16	6-16	11 6-16	6-16	11 8-16	X
Rhode Island.....		7-18	7-18			X
South Carolina.....	(10)	(10)	(10)			X
South Dakota.....	8-17	8-17			(1)	X
Tennessee.....	(11)					X
Texas.....	6-14	7-21				X
Utah.....	8-18	8-18	8-18			X
Vermont.....	8-16	8-16			(1)	X
Virginia.....	(12)	(12)				X
Washington.....	6-21	6-21			6-21	X
West Virginia.....	8-21	8-21				X
Wisconsin.....	6-18	6-18				X
Wyoming.....	(13)	(13)	(13)			X

¹ May be committed to State institution.

² "Where there are 10 or more children who are deaf, blind, crippled, or otherwise physically defective, the district board of education shall establish special classes necessary to provide suitable instruction for such children.

³ Where there are any physically or mentally handicapped children, the local school board must provide special classes for such children; compulsory attendance of mute or feeble-minded children is implied (not expressly stated).

⁴ "All deaf mutes and blind of the State who are of proper age and mental capacity . . . shall be admitted to the benefits of" the State institute for such persons.

⁵ Pupils in State institute for the blind "shall be taught such branches of learning as they can acquire."

⁶ The quinquennial school census must include a separate census of deaf and blind persons between 7 and 21, which shall be sent to the superintendent of the school for the deaf and blind.

⁷ The State must provide for the education of such children.

METHODS OF ENFORCEMENT

Thirty-nine States require a school census annually:

Arizona.	Indiana.	Nebraska.	Rhode Island.
Arkansas.	Iowa.	New Hampshire.	South Carolina.
California. ¹	Kansas.	New Mexico.	South Dakota.
Colorado.	Kentucky.	New York.	Texas.
Connecticut.	Maine.	North Carolina. ²	Utah.
District of Columbia.	Massachusetts.	North Dakota.	Vermont.
Florida.	Michigan.	Ohio.	Washington.
Idaho.	Minnesota.	Oklahoma.	West Virginia.
Illinois.	Missouri.	Oregon.	Wisconsin.
	Montana.	Pennsylvania.	Wyoming.

Five States require a school census biennially:

Alabama.	Maryland.	Mississippi.	Tennessee.
Delaware.			

One State requires school census quadrennially: Louisiana.

¹ Parent or guardian must register children of school age annually.

² Continuous school census.

Three States require a school census quinquennially:

Georgia. New Jersey. Virginia.

The school census is taken in Nevada "whenever in the judgment of * * * the State board it appears advisable."

Truancy Defined

Fourteen States definitely define truancy:

California.	Florida.	Massachusetts.	Pennsylvania.
Connecticut.	Kansas.	Mississippi.	Virginia.
District of Columbia.	Maine.	Nevada.	Wyoming.
	Maryland.	Oregon.	

In Alabama, Iowa, Louisiana, Michigan, New Jersey, Rhode Island, South Dakota, West Virginia, and Wisconsin, truancy is defined indefinitely. In North Carolina the State board of education is authorized to state what shall constitute truancy.

Twenty-five States do not appear to define truancy:

Arizona.	Indiana.	New Mexico.	Texas.
Arkansas.	Kentucky.	New York.	Utah.
Colorado.	Minnesota.	North Dakota.	Vermont.
Delaware.	Missouri.	Ohio.	Washington.
Georgia.	Montana.	Oklahoma.	
Idaho.	Nebraska.	South Carolina.	
Illinois.	New Hampshire.	Tennessee.	

Eleven States require principals or teachers to report immediately all cases of truancy:

Indiana.	Pennsylvania.	Virginia. ¹	Wisconsin.
Iowa.	Tennessee.	Vermont.	Wyoming.
Maryland.	Texas.	Washington.	

In Nebraska truancy must be reported within three days; Alabama, Florida, Kentucky, New Mexico, and South Carolina require principals or teachers to report truanancies weekly. In Arkansas, Georgia, Idaho, Kansas, Missouri (weekly first month), and Oregon report of truanancies is required monthly; South Dakota requires report of truanancies every two weeks.

In Illinois, Michigan, Mississippi, and Montana it is not definitely stated when truancy must be reported.

Twenty States do not specify when truanancies must be reported.

Arizona.	Louisiana.	New Jersey.	Oklahoma.
California.	Maine.	New York.	Rhode Island.
Colorado.	Massachusetts.	North Carolina.	Utah.
Connecticut.	Minnesota.	North Dakota.	West Virginia.
Delaware.	Nevada.		
District of Columbia.	New Hampshire.		

¹When truancy arises.

Eleven States do not specify who shall report truancies nor to whom they shall be reported.

Arizona.	Delaware.	Massachusetts.	New York.
Colorado.	Louisiana.	New Hampshire.	Rhode Island.
Connecticut.	Maine.	New Jersey.	

Twenty-seven States definitely specify time within which truancy must cease after warning from proper officer:

Alabama.	Indiana.	Nevada.	Tennessee.
Arkansas.	Kansas.	New Jersey.	Texas.
Colorado.	Michigan.	North Carolina.	Virginia.
Connecticut.	Mississippi.	Ohio.	West Virginia.
Delaware.	Missouri.	Oklahoma.	Wisconsin.
Florida.	Montana.	Oregon.	Wyoming.
Georgia.	Nebraska.	Pennsylvania.	

Twenty-two States do not specify when truancy must cease after being warned by truancy officer:

Arizona.	Illinois. ¹	Minnesota.	South Carolina.
California.	Kentucky.	New Hampshire.	South Dakota.
District of Columbia.	Louisiana.	New Mexico.	Utah.
	Maine.	New York.	Vermont.
Iowa.	Maryland.	North Dakota.	Washington.
Idaho. ¹	Massachusetts.	Rhode Island.	

ATTENDANCE OFFICERS

Twenty-one States have provisions for the selection of attendance officers by county school authorities:

Alabama. ²	Indiana. ²	Missouri. ²	Tennessee. ¹⁰
Arizona. ²	Kansas. ²	Nebraska. ²	Texas. ²
California. ²	Kentucky.	North Carolina. ²	Washington. ²
Florida.	Maryland.	Ohio. ²	
Georgia. ²	Michigan. ²	Oklahoma. ²	
Illinois. ²	Mississippi. ⁷	Oregon. ²	

In Idaho the attendance officers are selected by the probate court with the approval of the board of county commissioners; school trustees may act.

Legislation for the selection of attendance officers does not appear for the States of Delaware, Louisiana, Mississippi, and New Mexico.

¹ Indefinitely stated.

² Except in towns of 2,000 or more population.

³ Upon petition of majority of the boards of school trustees.

⁴ Except in municipal districts.

⁵ County officer appointed by county authorities; districts may appoint district officer.

⁶ Except in cities of first and of second class.

⁷ County superintendent acts as truant officer.

⁸ Except in towns and cities.

⁹ Except in first class districts.

¹⁰ Except in cities of 5,000 or more population.

Thirty-nine States have provisions for the selection of attendance officers by district school authorities:

Alabama. ¹	Iowa.	New Jersey.	South Dakota.
Arizona. ¹	Kansas. ⁴	New York.	Tennessee. ⁸
California.	Maine.	North Carolina.	Texas.
Colorado.	Massachusetts.	North Dakota. ⁵	Utah.
Connecticut.	Michigan.	Ohio.	Vermont.
District of Columbia. ²	Minnesota.	Oklahoma. ⁶	Virginia.
Georgia. ³	Missouri.	Oregon. ⁷	Washington. ⁹
Illinois.	Montana.	Pennsylvania.	West Virginia.
Indiana. ¹	Nevada.	Rhode Island.	Wisconsin.
	New Hampshire.	South Carolina.	Wyoming.

Salary of Attendance Officers

Thirty-six States provide that salary of attendance officers be fixed by appointing body:

Alabama.	Iowa. ¹²	Nevada.	South Dakota.
Arizona.	Kentucky.	New Hampshire.	Tennessee.
California.	Maine.	New Jersey.	Texas. ¹⁴
Colorado.	Maryland.	New York.	Utah.
Connecticut. ¹⁰	Michigan. ¹³	North Carolina.	Virginia.
Dist. of Columbia.	Minnesota.	Ohio.	Washington.
Florida.	Missouri. ¹⁴	Oklahoma.	West Virginia.
Idaho.	Montana.	Pennsylvania.	Wisconsin.
Indiana. ¹¹	Nebraska.	Rhode Island.	Wyoming. ¹⁴

Provisions relating to salary of attendance officers in other States are: Arkansas, no salary, but fees allowed; Georgia, from \$1 to \$3 per day employed; Illinois, fixed by board of county commissioners; Kansas, \$2 for each day employed; Massachusetts, no fees; Oregon, \$3 for each day of service; Vermont, \$2 for each day of service.

No salary provisions appear for the States of North Dakota and South Carolina. Legislation relating to the selection and salary of attendance officers does not appear for the States of Delaware, Louisiana, Mississippi, and New Mexico.

¹ In towns of 2,000 or more population.

² By competitive examination.

³ Municipal board.

⁴ In cities of first and second class.

⁵ In districts of 500 or more population.

⁶ In cities and towns.

⁷ In first class districts.

⁸ In cities of 5,000 or more population.

⁹ In districts with more than 2,500 population.

¹⁰ Fees allowed.

¹¹ From \$3 to \$5 per day employed.

¹² Reasonable compensation.

¹³ At least \$3 per day employed.

¹⁴ Not to exceed \$4 per day employed.

¹⁵ Not over \$3 per day employed.

When Attendance Officers Must Act

Fifteen States requiring attendance officers to act immediately or within 24 hours after receipt of report of truancy:

Iowa.	Minnesota.	Oklahoma.	West Virginia.
Kansas.	Missouri.	Oregon. ¹	Wisconsin.
Kentucky.	Nebraska.	Utah.	Wyoming. ²
Michigan. ¹	Ohio. ²	Vermont.	

In Alabama and Mississippi attendance officers must act within three days; in Illinois "as soon as possible."

Thirty-one States do not specify time within which truancy officer must act on cases reported to him:

Arizona.	Florida.	Montana.	Rhode Island.
Arkansas.	Georgia.	Nevada.	South Carolina.
California.	Idaho.	New Hampshire.	South Dakota.
Colorado.	Indiana.	New Jersey.	Tennessee.
Connecticut.	Louisiana.	New Mexico.	Texas.
Delaware.	Maine.	New York.	Utah.
District of Columbia.	Maryland.	North Dakota.	Virginia.
	Massachusetts.	Pennsylvania.	Washington.

Power of Attendance Officers

Twenty-four States authorize attendance officers to exercise the power of arrest over truants:

Arizona.	Maryland.	Nevada.	South Dakota.
California.	Massachusetts.	New Hampshire.	Tennessee.
Connecticut.	Michigan.	New Jersey.	Virginia.
Idaho.	Minnesota.	New York.	Washington.
Iowa.	Missouri.	Ohio.	West Virginia.
Maine.	Montana.	Pennsylvania.	Wisconsin.

All States authorize and require attendance officers to investigate truancy or nonattendance. This power and duty is expressed in most of the States, and where not expressed it is implied. They are likewise authorized and required to serve notice on parents or guardians of truants, and, when necessary, to file complaint before the proper court of jurisdiction.

The courts which usually have jurisdiction over truancy cases are those of the justices of the peace, or the municipal or county juvenile courts and county courts.

¹ Within 24 hours.

² When truancy "comes to his notice."

Penalties for Nonenforcement

Sixteen States provide penalty for principal or teacher for failure to report truancy:

Alabama.	Iowa.	Oregon.	Vermont.
Arkansas.	Kansas.	Pennsylvania.	Washington.
Dist. Columbia.	Minnesota.	South Carolina.	West Virginia.
Idaho.	Ohio.	South Dakota.	Wisconsin.

Nineteen States provide penalty for attendance officer for failure to act on truancy cases:

Arkansas.	Maine.	Ohio.	Vermont.
California.	Minnesota.	Oregon.	Washington.
Colorado.	New Hampshire.	Pennsylvania.	West Virginia.
Florida.	New York.	South Dakota.	Wisconsin.
Iowa.	North Dakota.	Tennessee.	

All States provide a penalty for parents or guardian, upon conviction, for failure to keep child in school.

Thirty-two States do not specify penalty for failure of attendance officers to act on truancy cases:

Alabama.	Indiana.	Missouri.	North Dakota.
Arizona.	Kansas.	Montana.	Oklahoma.
Connecticut.	Kentucky.	Nebraska.	Rhode Island.
Delaware.	Louisiana.	Nevada.	South Carolina.
Dist. Columbia.	Maryland.	New Jersey.	Texas.
Georgia.	Massachusetts.	New Mexico.	Utah.
Idaho.	Michigan.	New York.	Virginia.
Illinois.	Mississippi.	North Carolina.	Wyoming.

Thirty-three States do not specify penalty for principals or teachers for failure to report:

Arizona.	Kentucky.	Montana.	North Dakota.
California.	Louisiana.	Nebraska.	Oklahoma.
Colorado.	Maine.	Nevada.	Rhode Island.
Connecticut.	Maryland.	New Hampshire.	Tennessee.
Delaware.	Massachusetts.	New Jersey.	Texas.
Florida.	Michigan.	New Mexico.	Utah.
Georgia.	Mississippi.	New York.	Virginia.
Illinois.	Missouri.	North Carolina.	Wyoming.
Indiana.			

ENFORCEMENT PROVISIONS OF COMPULSORY EDUCATION LAWS
Part I.—School Census; Truancy Defined; When and By Whom Reported; Selection of Attendance Officers

[The blank spaces indicate that relevant legislative provisions were not found]

State	When school census taken	What constitutes truancy	When truancy must be reported	By whom reported	To whom reported	How attendance officers are selected
Alabama	Biennially	Not definitely stated	Weekly	Principal teacher	County superintendent	County board of education for rural districts; boards of education of towns of 2,000 or more population.
Arizona	Annually					County superintendent in county districts; boards of education of towns of 2,000 or more.
Arkansas	do		Monthly	Teacher	County superintendent	District board of directors.
California	Registered annually	Absent or tardy more than 3 days without valid excuse.		Any person connected with the schools.	Superintendent	County superintendent upon petition from school boards appoints county officer; districts may appoint assistant officers.
Colorado	Annually	Week's absence.				By district board of school directors.
Connecticut	do					"Every town, and the mayor and aldermen of every city
Delaware	Biennially	2 days or 4 one-half days in any month.		Principal or head teacher.	Director of school attendance	By board of education; assistants to director of attendance selected by board after competitive examination.
Dist. Columbia	do					County board of public instruction.
Florida	do	4 days unexcused absence in any month.	Weekly	Principal or teacher in charge	Attendance officer	County and municipal boards of education appoint for their respective districts.
Georgia	Every 5 years		Monthly	do	Board of education	Probate court with approval of board of county commissioners; school trustees may enforce.
Idaho	Annually		do	Head teacher, also school trustees.	County superintendent	County superintendent for county officer; school districts may appoint district truant officers.
Illinois	do		"From time to time"	Teacher or superintendent	do	Nominated by county superintendent, appointed by county board of education. Local superintendents nominate and local boards appoint in towns of 2,000 or more.
Indiana	do		Immediately	Principal or teacher	Superintendent of district	By school corporation.
Iowa	do	Absent "without reasonable excuse."	Promptly	All school officers and employees.	Secretary of school corporation.	District truant officers nominated by county superintendent and appointed by board of county commissioners; cities of 1st and 2d class appoint.
Kansas	do	Absent "two or more consecutive days."	Monthly	School officers, teachers, or any resident.	School superintendent	County board of education with approval of county superintendent.
Kentucky	do		Weekly	Teachers	Attendance officer	
Louisiana	Every 4 years	Absent "without reasonable excuse."				

Meane	Annually	Absent half day or more	Immediately	Principal or head teacher	County school board or attendance officer	Annually, by superintending school committee in every town
Maryland	Biennially	Absent 3 days or equivalent within 8 consecutive weeks				County officer, by county board of education subject to approval of State superintendent of schools
Massachusetts	Annually	Absent 7 days or 14 half days in any 6 months' period		Principal teacher or other person	Treasurer officer	School committee
Michigan	do	Not definitely stated		Principal or teacher	School superintendent	
Minnesota	Annually		From time to time	Principal teacher	do	County trustee officer, by county commissioner of schools; district boards of education may appoint district trustee officers
Mississippi	Biennially	Absent more than 1 day	At end of fifth day of compulsory period; include thereafter	Principal teacher	do	District boards of education may appoint trustee officers; school superintendents may act as trustee officers
Missouri	Annually		Weekly for first month; thereafter	Teacher	do	County superintendent acts as trustee officer; trustees of municipal school districts with 10,000 population may employ trustee officers
Montana	do		As soon as practicable	Principals and teachers	District board of trustees or trustee officer	County officer, by county superintendent; district officer, by district board of education
Nebraska	do		Within 3 days	Superintendent, principal, teacher, or member of school board	School superintendent	By local school boards; county superintendent may act where officers have not been appointed
Nevada	Indefinite	Absent more than 3 days or parts of 3 days		Teacher, attendance officer, or other person connected with school	Parent or guardian	By county superintendent, in county districts; boards of education of towns and cities
New Hampshire	Annually					
New Jersey	Every 5 years	"Repeatedly" absent				By boards of trustees. (Taxpayer or school official may file complaint for truancy.)
New Mexico	Annually		Weekly	Principals or teachers in charge	County superintendent	Appointed by district school boards for 1 year. District officer, by district board; county officer, by State commissioner with consent of State board
New York	do			Teachers or principal	Chief attendance officer	No attendance officer appointed; school officials act in private law
North Carolina	Continuous school census	Defined by State board of education		Principals or teachers or trustee officer	County superintendent	By district school authorities
North Dakota	Annually			Principals or teachers in charge	Board of education	By county board for county, by district board for district
Ohio	do		2 weeks from beginning of term, monthly thereafter	Principal or teacher in charge	County superintendent	Boards of education in districts of 500 or more; county superintendent acts if no trustee officer is appointed

No school census, but parents or guardians are annually required to register children of school age.
 Furthermore, "The principal teacher, not in a separate school district, shall, during the first month of the school term, make a complete enumeration of the educable children of the district."
 "Wherever, in the judgment of the State board, it appears advisable that a school census should be taken." (Acts of 1925.)

ENFORCEMENT PROVISIONS OF COMPULSORY EDUCATION LAWS—Continued
Part L—School Census; Truancy Defined; When and By Whom Reported; Selection of Attendance Officers—Continued

State	When school census taken	What constitutes truancy	When truancy must be reported	By whom reported	To whom reported	How attendance officers are selected
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Oklahoma	Annually			Principal or head teacher.	Attendance officer.	Board of education of cities and towns; county superintendent appoints for rural districts.
Oregon	do	8 unexcused half-day absences in any 4 weeks.	Every 4 weeks.	Principal or teacher.	Attendance supervisor.	County superintendent; except in first class district, where district board appoints.
Pennsylvania	do	Absent 3 days or equivalent.	Promptly from time to time.	do	Truant officer or school superintendent.	By district board of education.
Rhode Island	do	Any unexcused absences (implied).		Teacher, principal, or superintendent.	County superintendent; if one appointed.	Local school committee appoints annually.
South Carolina	do		Within 1 week.	Teachers.	County superintendent.	School trustees nominate to county board of education (to school superintendent in independent districts).
South Dakota	do	habitually absent.	Every 2 weeks.	Teachers.	County superintendent.	County superintendent is ex officio county truant officer in all districts which do not appoint a truant officer.
Tennessee	Biennially		"Promptly" and regularly.	Principal-teacher.	Superintendent.	Board of education of county and of every city of 5,000 or more.
Texas	Annually		Fifth day from beginning of term; promptly thereafter.	Teacher.	Attendance officer.	County officer by county school trustees; district officer by district school trustees.
Utah	do		Forthwith.	School boards.	City or county attorney.	By board of education of each district or city.
Vermont	do			Teachers.	Superintendent or school directors and the truant officer.	Appointed annually by school directors, sheriffs and police as ex officio truant officers.
Virginia	Every 3 years.	Absent unlawfully for 5 days or its equivalent in any school month.	Whenever a case arises.	Principal or head teacher.	Attendance officer.	Appointed by local school board; division superintendent acts where no officer has been appointed.
Washington	Annually		Immediately.	Teacher, principal or superintendent.	do	In city districts, by board of directors; in other districts, county superintendent shall act as officer, but may employ help.
West Virginia	do	Not definitely stated.	Promptly.	Superintendents, principals, or teachers.	do	By district boards of education.
Wisconsin	do	Attendance "habitually irregular."		Teachers.	Truant officers.	Appointed by board of education.
Wyoming	do	Habitually tardy or absent; or absent 3 consecutive days.	When truancy arises.	Principal or teacher, or any resident.	do	Duty of sheriff and constables to enforce law; districts with more than 2,500 population may appoint truant officers.

Part II.—Powers and Duties of Attendance Officers; Penalties

	Powers, duties, etc., of attendance officers	When officers required to act	When truancy must cease after warning	Court of jurisdiction	Penalties		
					For principals or teachers for failure to report truancy	For attendance officers for failure to act on truancy cases	For parents or guardians for failure to keep child in school
State					12	13	14
Alabama	Investigate, serve notice, file complaint.	Within 3 days.	Within 3 days.	Court of competent jurisdiction. County court.	Forfeit monthly salary.		Amount not stated; may enforce collection by imprisonment.
Arizona	Investigate nonattendance and child labor, may enter factories, etc., to do so; may arrest without warrant.						\$5 to \$50 or imprisonment 1 to 25 days, or both.
Arkansas	Investigate, serve notice, file complaint with peace officer.		Within 5 days.	Court of competent jurisdiction. Proper court.	Not over \$10.	Not over \$10.	Fine, not over \$10.
California	Investigate, file complaint for prosecution; may arrest without warrant truants and deliver to parents.					Removal from office.	Not over \$10 or not over 5 days imprisonment; subsequent offenses \$10 to \$50 or 5 to 25 days imprisonment, or both.
Colorado	Investigate; has police power; may enter places of business where minors may be employed; warn and file complaint against violators.		Within 5 days.	County court.		Not more than \$50.	\$5 to \$25, or bond of \$100, may enforce fine or bond by imprisonment 10 to 30 days.
Connecticut	Investigate nonattendance, file cases for prosecution to prosecuting officers; police may arrest truants.		do.	Justice of the peace.			Not over \$5 (not over \$20 for false statement).
Delaware							\$5 to \$25; subsequent offense, \$25 to \$50; imprisonment for default in payment.
Dist. Columbia	Investigate nonattendance and child labor, and enforce school attendance.		Within 3 days.	Justice of the peace or county court. Juvenile court.	\$10 or 5 days in jail, or both.		Fine, \$10 or 5 days in jail, or both.
Florida	Take school census, serve notice, may enter places of business to investigate child employment, file complaint.		Within 1 day.	Any court of jurisdiction.		May be removed.	Not over \$5; may be imprisoned not over 5 days if default in payment.

ENFORCEMENT PROVISIONS OF COMPULSORY EDUCATION LAWS—Continued
 Part II.—Powers and Duties of Attendance Officers; Penalties—Continued

State	Powers, duties, etc., of attendance officers	When officers required to act	When truancy must cease after warning	Court of jurisdiction	Penalties		
					For principals or teachers for failure to report truancy	For attendance officers for failure to act on truancy cases	For parents or guardians for failure to keep child in school
1	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
Georgia	Investigate nonattendance, institute suit against violators of attendance law.		Within 10 days.				Not over \$10; subsequent offenses, not over \$20.
Idaho	Investigate; serve notice; file complaint with prosecuting attorney; have power to arrest.		Within a reasonable time.	Probate court of county.	Monthly salary may be withheld.		Penalty fixed by court.
Illinois	Investigate, serve notice, and make complaint with justice of the peace.	As soon as possible.	As soon as practicable.	Court of peace.			From \$5 to \$20.
Indiana	Visit factories where minors are employed, serve notice, bring suit.		Within 1 day.	Juvenile, circuit, or superior court.			\$10 to \$200, or not over 60 days in county jail, or both.
Iowa	Take into custody without warrant truants and place them in school; institute suit against violators.	Promptly.			\$5 to \$20.		\$5 to \$20.
Kansas	See that the provision of this act are complied with; give notice.						\$5 to \$25; or committed to jail until paid.
Kentucky	Investigate nonattendance, file complaint.	Immediately.	Next school day.	Juvenile or other court.	Monthly salary withheld.		Not less than \$5.
Louisiana		do.		Nearest court of jurisdiction.			Not over \$10; or not over 10 days in jail; or both.
Maine	Inquire into cases of neglect; when directed, may prosecute or enter places of business to investigate child labor; may arrest truants.			Courts of jurisdiction (juvenile courts if parent not at fault).			Not over \$25 or imprisonment not over 30 days.
Maryland	Arrest truants, without warrant, visit places where minors are employed, to investigate violations.			A magistrate.		\$10 to \$50.	Fine, not over \$5.

State	Provisions	Time	Authority	Penalty
Massachusetts	Inquire into nonattendance; complainants; arrest truants without warrant; serve legal processes.	Within 24 hours on teachers report; 3 days if parent neglects warning.	Justice of the peace.	Not over \$20.
Michigan	Power of deputy sheriff; investigate truancy; file complaint.	Within 24 hours on teachers report; 3 days if parent neglects warning.	Justice of the peace.	\$5 to \$50, or imprisonment from 2 to 90 days, or both.
Minnesota	Investigate truancy, make complaint, serve notice and process; may arrest without warrant habitual truants.	3 days from serving notice if truancy continues.	Any court of jurisdiction by county attorney.	Not over \$10, or not over 10 days in jail.
Mississippi	Investigate, give notice, prosecute before justice of peace.	Within 3 days.	Justice of peace.	\$1 to \$10; \$5 to \$25 for second offense; \$25 or 10 days in jail, or both, for subsequent offenses.
Missouri	Power of deputy sheriff; investigate child labor and truancy; serve notice; institute suit.	Immediately.	Juvenile division of circuit court or justice of peace.	\$10 to \$25, or from 2 to 10 days in jail, or both.
Montana	Police powers; serve warrants; investigate child labor and truancy; institute proceedings.	Within 2 days.	Court of jurisdiction.	\$5 to \$20, or \$100 in bond to insure future attendance; may be imprisoned 10 to 30 days.
Nebraska	Investigate truancy, serve notice, file complaint.	Immediately.	Juvenile.	\$5 to \$100, or not over 3 months in jail.
Nevada	Arrest without warrant during school hours; investigate; file complaint.	One or more days or parts thereof.	Proper court.	Not over \$10, or not over 5 days in jail; \$10 to \$50, or 5 to 25 days in jail, or both for subsequent offenses.
New Hampshire	Arrest without warrant truants; enumerate school children; investigate truancy and child labor; serve warrants.	Within 5 days.	Juvenile or common pleas of the county.	\$10; \$20 for subsequent offenses.
New Jersey	Arrest truants; investigate; warn violators; file complaint.	Immediately.	Justice of the peace.	Not over \$5; not over \$25 for subsequent offenses.
New Mexico	Arrest without warrant truants and present them to teacher or magistrate; investigate truancy.	Immediately.	Courts of session and police magistrates.	\$5 to \$100 or from 5 to 90 days in jail.
New York	Chief attendance officer shall investigate and prosecute violators.	Immediately.	State attorney.	Not over \$5 or 5 days in jail; for subsequent offenses, not over \$50 or 30 days in jail, or both.
North Carolina	Chief attendance officer shall investigate and prosecute violators.	Immediately.	State attorney.	\$5 to \$25; may be imprisoned not over 30 days for failure to pay.
North Dakota	Make complaint to State attorney.	Immediately.	State attorney.	\$5 to \$20; from \$10 to \$50 for subsequent offenses.

ENFORCEMENT PROVISIONS OF COMPULSORY EDUCATION LAWS—Continued
 Part II.—Powers and Duties of Attendance Officers; Penalties—Continued

State	Powers, duties, etc., of attendance officers	When officers required to act	When truancy must cease after warning	Court of Jurisdiction	Penalties		
					For principals or teachers for failure to report truancy	For attendance officers for failure to act on truancy cases	For parents or guardians for failure to keep child in school
1	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
Ohio.....	Investigate truancy, serve warrant; has police powers; enter workshops, etc. to investigate; institute proceedings.	When truancy comes to his notice.	Forthwith.....	Juvenile or any court of jurisdiction.	\$20 to \$50.....	\$20 to \$50.....	\$5 to \$20, or bond to insure future compliance; imprisoned 10 to 30 days for failure to pay or furnish bond.
Oklahoma.....	Investigate, serve notice, make complaint.	Promptly.....	Within 5 days.	Justice of the peace or other court.	.....	.....	Punished as those "guilty of misdemeanors."
Oregon.....	Investigate truancy, serve notice, make complaint.	Within 24 hours.	Next day.....	Justice of peace	\$5 to \$20.....	\$5 to \$20.....	\$5 to \$25, or from 2 to 10 days in jail, or both.
Pennsylvania.....	Serve notice, make complaint, have full police power, may enter business houses to investigate.	.....	Within 3 days.	do.....	Not over \$25; not over 30 days in jail for default in payment.	Not over \$25; not over 30 days in jail for default in payment.	\$2; \$5 for subsequent offenses; if fail to pay, may be imprisoned not over 5 days.
Rhode Island.....	Inquire into truancy, serve notice; make complaint; investigate child labor in business places.	.....	.....	District courts.	.....	.....	A amount of penalty not specified.
South Carolina.....	Serve notice, make complaint; may excuse any absence; visit places of business.	.....	.....	Magistrate	\$5 from salary for current month.	.....	\$5 to \$10; or from 5 to 10 days in jail.
South Dakota.....	Make and file complaints before county court; arrest truants without warrant.	.....	.....	County or circuit court.	Same as for parent.	Same as for parent.	\$10 to \$50; from \$25 to \$100 for subsequent offenses, or from 10 to 30 days in jail, or both.
Tennessee.....	Serve notice; may arrest without warrant truants; may investigate in places of employment.	.....	Immediately.....	Justice of the peace or juvenile court.	.....	May be removed.	\$5 to \$50 for false statement; from \$2 to \$10 for truancy; \$5 to \$20 for second offense of truancy.
Texas.....	Investigate truancy; file complaint; serve notice; keep record of truancy cases.	.....	do.....	County court of Justice	.....	.....	\$5; \$10 for second offense; \$25 for subsequent offenses.
Utah.....	Inquire into truancy, file complaint; has police power.	Immediately.....	.....	City or county court.	.....	.....	Not definitely stated; but truancy constitutes misdemeanor.

Vermont.....	Inquire into truancy; serve notice; investigate poor and physically unfit.	Forthwith.....	State's attorney.	\$5 to \$25 (for superintendent not over \$100).	Not over \$100.....	\$5 to \$25.
Virginia.....	Have police powers, keep record of actions; serve notices.	Within 5 days.	Juvenile court; Justice of peace or circuit or county court.	\$20 to \$100 (also for superintendent).	\$20 to \$100.....	Fine, not over \$25.
Washington.....	Police power; make arrests; serve legal processes; may enter mills, etc. to investigate child labor.	Immediately.	Justices of the peace.	\$3 to \$20 and may be imprisoned not over 25 days.	\$3 to \$20 and may be imprisoned not over 25 days.	Not more than \$25.
West Virginia.....	Serve notice; enter factories, etc., to investigate child labor; file complaint; arrest without warrant.	do.....	Justices of the peace or juvenile court if there is one.	\$5 to \$25.....	\$5 to \$25.....	\$3 to \$20; or from 5 to 20 days in jail.
Wisconsin.....	Serve notice; file complaint; arrest without warrant; visit factories, etc., to investigate child labor; make reports.	do.....	Justices of the peace.	\$5 to \$50; or not over 3 months in jail, or both.	\$5 to \$25.....	\$5 to \$50; or not over 3 months in jail, or both.
Wyoming.....	Serve notice; file complaint.....	do.....	Justices of the peace.	\$5 to \$25 for each offense. May be imprisoned not over 90 days in subsequent offenses.	\$5 to \$25 for each offense. May be imprisoned not over 90 days in subsequent offenses.	\$5 to \$25 for each offense. May be imprisoned not over 90 days in subsequent offenses.

SCHOOL ATTENDANCE AND EDUCATION AFFECTED BY COMPULSORY EDUCATION LAWS

It is difficult to estimate the relative importance of the various factors affecting school attendance. The strongest factor perhaps in promoting attendance is the increasingly wide recognition by parents and children of the value of education. Improved school buildings, roads, transportation, health, and teaching, the establishment of kindergarten and part-time schools, and the operation of compulsory education laws are no doubt important factors for increasing attendance.

Compulsory education laws frequently need to be invoked to compel indifferent parents and delinquent children to conform to high educational ideals and citizenship standards. Statistics compiled in the United States Bureau of Education for the school year 1919-20 indicate that there were then in the United States approximately 7,000,000 of the school population (5 to 17 inclusive) who were not enrolled in public or private schools. In 1920 the census showed that there were in the United States at that time approximately 1,000,000 illiterate persons between 10 and 25 years of age. Doubtless, the former situation shows the chief cause of the latter. When 7,000,000 of school age are permitted to remain out of school, it is not surprising that approximately 1,000,000 should remain illiterate beyond the school age.

The following figures show the per cent of school population, distributed by years, not attending schools (not enrolled) in 1920, according to the census report of that year.

Per cent of school population not attending school

Years of age	Per cent not attending school	Years of age	Per cent not attending school
5	81.2	13	7.5
6	36.7	14	13.7
7	16.7	15	27.1
8	11.5	16	49.2
9	9.6	17	65.4
10	7.0	18	73.3
11	6.1	19	86.2
12	6.8	20	91.7

The figures just given indicate that more children attend school when 11 years of age than at any other age, but that still 6 per cent of children of that age do not attend school at all. But far more serious waste by nonattendance is shown for the years before 8 and after 13. Thus it would seem that the fairly effective period might well be lengthened at each end. For 1924-25 it was estimated that there were 8,000,000 children of school age absent from public or private schools every day such schools were in session.

The foregoing conditions are strong indications that there are serious leaks in our educational systems. To abolish illiteracy and ignorance as far as possible was doubtless one of the aims of compulsory school attendance laws. It therefore remains the problem of legislators, school officials, and the interested public who are friendly to education to provide for greater effectiveness of present laws through supplementary legislation, or administrative rules, or both.

The test of efficiency of any compulsory education system may be fairly shown by the answers to two questions, which are: First, what per cent of the total school population does it get into school, or otherwise reach? Secondly, how well does it keep them in school, or in training elsewhere? Generally speaking, the law which scores satisfactory in this test is a satisfactory law. By examining the law in States which have fairly good attendance, we may obtain some idea of the kind of law which seems to be producing fairly satisfactory results. There is, of course, much difficulty in determining what provisions should be included in an efficient compulsory education law. There is no doubt, however, that certain features tend to raise, while others tend to lower, the efficiency of such laws. In States where the requirements for exemption and the methods of enforcement appear more rigid and definite it would be natural to expect better school attendance and consequently more education than in other States having seemingly less rigid and definite requirements. For example, a law requiring attendance from 7 to 17 may well be expected to secure more school attendance than a law requiring attendance from 8 to 14. More attendance is likewise expected from a minimum school term of nine months than from a minimum term of six months. A law requiring an eighth-grade education for labor permits would require more school attendance than one requiring only a fifth or sixth grade education. Moreover, better enforcement would naturally be expected from a law requiring that truancy be reported immediately, or within 24 hours, than from one requiring that truancy be reported weekly; and the law with a penalty provision for neglect of duty by teachers and attendance officers is likely to be more effective than one without such provision, and also a law which defines truancy may obtain a more satisfactory court judgment than one without such definition.

A close study of the various features of compulsory school attendance laws and the corresponding school attendance in States indicates considerable correlation between certain laws and the amount of attendance. That is to say, laws which are more rigid and definite seem to produce, on the whole, better attendance and consequently more literacy, than the laws which are not nearly so rigid and definite. By a more rigid and definite law is meant a law having a fairly high

maximum attendance age, a high standard of education for exemption and for labor permits; few and definite exemptions, one placing specific duties on teachers and officers and requiring them to act immediately, providing a penalty for failing to act, etc. There are some exceptions, however, and these exceptions are doubtless partly due to many school attendance rules adopted by school boards and superintendents supplementing the legislative enactments. Furthermore, when we consider the fact that various and numerous provisions are diversely distributed among the different States and that various economic and social factors prevail, a few exceptions might well be taken.

Allowing for all the exceptions, the weight of evidence strongly indicates that compulsory education laws which are more rigid and definite produce, on the whole, fairly good attendance, and that as the laws are found less rigid and definite attendance is correspondingly less. The following roll call of States and the table of statistics show various features of the compulsory education law, school attendance, and illiteracy for each State.

Roll Call of the States on Certain Features of Compulsory Education Law:

There is given here a list of 20 different features of State laws on compulsory education. Following the list is a table which shows the States with laws containing any of these features. States having any of following features are indicated by check marks (X) placed in the columns corresponding in numbers to the numbers of the various features.

The features included in compulsory education laws:

1. Truancy definitely defined.
2. Provides when truancy shall cease after warning.
3. Penalty on principals and teachers for failing to report truancy.
4. Penalty on attendance officers for neglect of duty.
5. No exemption allowed for distance.
6. No exemption allowed for poverty.
7. No exemption for indefinite reasons.
8. Requires that truancy be reported immediately.
9. Requires attendance officer to act immediately.
10. Seventh grade or more required for labor permits.
11. Eight months or more annual school term.
12. Nine years or more attendance required.
13. Minimum compulsory attendance age less than 8.
14. Maximum compulsory attendance age 16 or more.
15. Requires school census annually.
16. Truancy officer has power of arrest.
17. Provides under certain conditions for selection of attendance officers by county authorities.
18. Provides who shall grant exemptions.
19. Provides who shall report truancy.
20. Regular attendance officer required.

States which appear to have any of the features above mentioned are indicated in the chart below by check marks (X) in the columns numbered to correspond to the order in which the features are mentioned on the preceding page, e. g., the checks (X) in column No. 1 indicate the States which definitely define truancy, which is feature No. 1.

States which contain certain features in their compulsory education laws
 [The features indicated by the numbers in columns 1 to 20 are shown on the preceding page]

State	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
Ala.		X	X			X	X													
Ariz.					X	X	X							X			X		X	X
Ark.		X	X	X	X		X		X								X		X	X
Calif.	X			X	X	X	X			X			X		X		X	X	X	X
Colo.		X		X	X	X	X			X	X			X		X	X	X	X	X
Conn.	X	X		X	X	X	X			X	X			X		X	X	X	X	X
Del.		X		X	X	X	X			X	X			X		X	X	X	X	X
D. C.	X	X	X	X	X	X	X			X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Fla.	X	X		X	X	X	X			X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Ga.		X		X	X	X	X			X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Idaho			X		X	X	X					X					X	X	X	X
Ill.					X	X	X				X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Ind.		X			X	X	X				X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Iowa			X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Kans.	X	X	X		X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Ky.					X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
La.					X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Me.	X				X	X	X										X	X	X	X
Md.	X				X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Mass.	X				X	X	X			X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Mich.		X			X	X	X				X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Minn.			X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Miss.	X	X			X	X	X			X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Mo.		X			X	X	X			X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Mont.		X			X	X	X			X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Nebr.		X			X	X	X			X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Nev.	X				X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
N. H.				X	X	X	X			X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
N. J.		X			X	X	X			X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
N. Mex.					X	X	X			X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
N. Y.					X	X	X			X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
N. C.					X	X	X			X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
N. Dak.		X			X	X	X			X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Ohio		X	X	X	X	X	X			X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Okla.		X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Oreg.	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Pa.	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
R. I.					X	X	X			X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
S. C.					X	X	X			X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
S. Dak.			X		X	X	X			X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Tenn.		X			X	X	X			X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Tex.		X			X	X	X			X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Utah					X	X	X			X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Vt.			X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Va.	X	X			X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Wash.		X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
W. Va.		X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Wis.	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Wyo.	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X

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LAW RELATING TO COMPULSORY EDUCATION

School population, enrollment, attendance, and illiteracy in the various States

(NOTE.—Columns 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, and 8 show the figures for 1922-24. The figures in columns 9 to 13, inclusive, are based upon the United States Census of 1920)

State	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
	School population 5-17, inclusive	Enrollment in public elementary and secondary schools	Ratio of school population to number enrolled	Average daily attendance	Ratio of school population to number in daily attendance	Months of school attendance required	Average days attended yearly by each child enrolled	Total illiterates 10 to 25 years of age	Per cent of illiterates 10 to 25 years of age	White population 10 to 25 years of age	Per cent of illiterate whites 10 to 25 years of age	Negro population 10 to 25 years of age	Per cent of illiterate negroes 10 to 25 years of age
Alabama	811,123	601,175	0.741	418,191	0.516	Not stated.	92.8	70,176	9.28	464,320	3.17	301,360	18.49
Arizona	104,080	71,680	.711	54,911	.528	64	121.2	11,743	12.63	90,479	12.67	2,467	3.65
Arkansas	596,827	501,798	.842	362,838	.609	48	97.9	30,105	6.40	398,953	2.42	188,866	12.89
California	770,692	1,022,130	1.311	706,179	.906	(80) 64	125.2	12,107	1.55	768,746	1.96	8,634	1.03
Colorado	252,680	247,196	.979	179,476	.710	48	121.3	3,691	1.49	243,596	1.49	2,598	1.09
Connecticut	357,885	288,927	.807	227,748	.664	85 1/4	180.8	1,432	1.67	339,496	1.56	6,697	2.19
Delaware	53,671	38,573	.719	31,936	.596	80	147.0	968	1.64	46,906	.98	8,936	6.86
District of Columbia	82,896	72,015	.869	69,529	.718	81	148.8	709	.61	83,712	.23	20,685	1.65
Florida	298,907	266,318	.891	197,482	.661	36	101.3	18,579	6.61	176,347	2.02	104,430	14.38
Georgia	979,684	747,213	.763	545,465	.557	36	102.2	93,736	9.91	529,290	3.14	416,365	18.61
Idaho	138,086	116,970	.847	88,806	.643	70	122.1	757	.63	120,059	.62	178	3.93
Illinois	1,646,015	1,310,078	.799	1,092,480	.663	(77) 63	151.8	12,641	.73	1,651,938	.71	45,090	1.62
Indiana	730,435	623,566	.854	553,343	.758	54	152.6	3,690	.44	750,374	.44	27,365	1.46
Iowa	604,162	533,469	.883	449,392	.744	72	148.3	2,124	.324	648,868	.33	4,796	1.98
Kansas	470,415	424,501	.902	363,840	.774	72	150.0	3,128	.62	470,731	.61	15,437	1.12
Kentucky	705,090	567,782	.793	414,562	.579	63	119.8	27,963	3.89	649,966	3.62	67,123	6.86
Louisiana	575,546	390,849	.679	299,736	.521	49	116.5	95,240	16.45	347,100	7.95	231,719	29.22
Maine	185,301	147,198	.794	129,888	.701	75	155.1	2,769	1.414	194,892	1.412	327	2.11
Maryland	371,244	256,302	.690	203,762	.549	90	147.2	9,098	2.21	331,027	.91	72,600	8.29
Massachusetts	932,432	737,576	.791	606,009	.650	72	149.3	12,549	1.30	862,437	1.28	10,979	2.52
Michigan	968,576	818,721	.857	650,473	.681	(70) 63	141.4	6,701	.71	922,230	.69	16,040	1.68
Minnesota	640,380	544,445	.850	429,862	.671	59	141.2	2,663	.396	669,708	.286	1,781	1.78
Mississippi	593,962	572,028	.963	388,643	.654	26	93.0	68,268	11.65	271,293	2.28	319,729	18.46
Missouri	859,111	728,814	.848	579,513	.675	(88) 73	134.9	9,463	1.01	869,337	.86	45,670	4.11
Montana	163,493	117,793	.721	96,354	.599	(90) 73	139.0	889	.649	133,562	.649	278	1.79

Nebraska.....	354, 131	921	282, 572	744	81	136.7	1, 530	41	364, 693	40	2, 292	1. 37
Nevada.....	16, 330	. 877	12, 354	. 786	88	138.2	1, 535	3. 24	16, 431	2. 25	54	7. 40
New Hampshire.....	401, 739	. 781	56, 970	. 590	72	139.1	1, 425	1. 30	109, 244	1. 32	144	5. 55
New Jersey.....	841, 788	. 789	656, 981	. 662	81	157.6	10, 944	1. 33	786, 809	1. 32	30, 030	1. 68
New Mexico.....	114, 067	. 779	64, 456	. 565	70	124.8	9, 701	8. 95	106, 184	9. 06	2, 057	3. 01
New York.....	2, 405, 902	. 774	1, 610, 076	. 645	(99) 81	156.5	31, 559	1. 193	2, 594, 393	1. 191	46, 853	1. 06
North Carolina.....	899, 026	. 862	571, 359	. 636	42	103.3	56, 276	6. 89	656, 613	3. 92	262, 463	13. 10
North Dakota.....	215, 685	. 810	144, 283	. 669	70	136.2	1, 028	. 53	190, 993	. 53	90	11. 00
Ohio.....	1, 426, 837	. 841	1, 013, 122	. 710	94	149.2	10, 913	1. 74	1, 425, 437	. 69	48, 205	2. 09
Oklahoma.....	666, 607	. 840	441, 035	. 634	30	110.3	12, 150	1. 89	560, 013	1. 65	49, 749	4. 79
Oregon.....	194, 385	. 903	149, 123	. 767	(72) 46	147.8	783	406	194, 541	407	307	1. 92
Pennsylvania.....	2, 409, 525	. 746	1, 495, 842	. 621	64	150.2	24, 309	1. 04	2, 247, 550	1. 01	76, 773	2. 57
Rhode Island.....	151, 065	. 701	89, 277	. 591	81	164.1	2, 817	1. 78	155, 501	1. 77	2, 328	17. 48
South Carolina.....	598, 634	. 780	324, 822	. 642	42	82.6	62, 963	11. 12	257, 466	3. 50	308, 539	1. 00
South Dakota.....	184, 384	. 862	132, 022	. 716	72	139.3	694	3. 39	182, 476	3. 39	215	12. 65
Tennessee.....	731, 945	. 866	448, 945	. 612	72	101.2	40, 750	5. 64	574, 772	3. 71	147, 108	7. 82
Texas.....	1, 499, 344	. 797	976, 204	. 661	38	110.7	86, 501	5. 80	1, 230, 198	5. 39	250, 653	2. 14
Utah.....	146, 738	. 888	110, 194	. 781	50	142.7	964	7. 26	133, 323	7. 23	280	1. 41
Vermont.....	84, 786	. 756	57, 498	. 678	68	144.9	646	7. 28	88, 505	7. 28	141	12. 53
Virginia.....	718, 738	. 774	417, 785	. 581	42	120.2	46, 035	6. 49	469, 253	3. 99	223, 283	68
Washington.....	336, 696	. 941	247, 381	. 735	64	128.4	1, 021	. 48	333, 636	. 48	1, 316	6. 70
West Virginia.....	471, 119	. 846	310, 560	. 659	72	150.0	12, 538	2. 88	409, 065	2. 63	26, 235	1. 46
Wisconsin.....	701, 928	. 763	454, 907	. 648	72	137.2	3, 172	4. 36	724, 930	4. 34	1, 293	2. 46
Wyoming.....	54, 921	. 942	41, 146	. 749	72	137.2	499	1. 01	49, 080	1. 00	324	2. 46

* Numbers in parentheses indicate total number of months required where part-time schools are provided.

* Approximate.



SUMMARY

Compulsory education laws which require children 6 years of age to attend school have been operating for many years; this is also true of laws requiring attendance until 18 years of age. Results show that children 6 years of age make good progress in school work, but under the laws of one-half the States children are not required to attend school until 8 years of age. Hence considerable nonattendance is permitted between 6 and 8 years of age. As a matter of fact, most children start to school when 6 years of age, and are consequently two years ahead of those who are brought in by the law when 8 years old. Children who take advantage of this privilege to stay out until 8 are considerably handicapped at the start. Their retarded position, due to postponed schooling, tends toward embarrassment, a dislike for school, truancy, and early withdrawal. Thus permissive nonattendance during the years from 6 to 8 tends to defeat the very aim of compulsory education laws. Five States require attendance until 18 and five others until 17 years of age. Six States require attendance until 14 only; two until 15.

The total amount of attendance required in the different States varies considerably. For example: Two States require 90 or more months; six require less than 40; 10 require 80 or more; 13 require less than 50.

Requirement of little or no education for labor permits, and the granting of labor permits at an early age, tend to reduce school attendance. Considerable variation is found in this regard. Seventeen States require eighth-grade education for labor permits, while eight States require ability to read and write only, and eight other States appear to have no educational requirements. The ages at which labor permits are granted vary under certain conditions, from 12 to 14; the most usual is 14. Laws which require an eighth-grade education for labor permits appear to be operating satisfactorily.

Distance from school is undoubtedly a potent factor in influencing attendance. In a number of counties, it has been estimated that distance reduced attendance by one-half for children living 2 miles from school. Twenty-two States allow exemption from school attendance on account of distance. Obviously, many children are not affected by the law. There may have been conditions in the past which justified exemption for distance, but the facilities for transportation have been universally improved to the extent that continued exemption on account of distance seems now unnecessary. The majority of the States for many years have refused to exempt on account of distance.

Public interest in the support of compulsory education is an essential factor in securing good attendance. If either the public or school authorities are indifferent, the best attendance law will fail to produce

adequate results. Doubtless, some laws in themselves are better than others; also nonattendance problems are more complex and difficult in some communities than in others. It would seem that the greatest need for a good law is where nonattendance is greatest and most difficult to solve.

While public interest is an important factor in law enforcement, a good law must possess in itself some power of enforcing its provisions. No law can be satisfactorily enforced unless adequate penalties are imposed upon delinquent officers charged with its enforcement. Ordinarily, courts have no power to impose penalties unless such power is specifically granted. Penalties upon parents are no doubt sufficient in most States to secure compliance on their part; but 33 States do not specify any penalty for principals or teachers failing to report truancy, and furthermore, 32 do not specify penalties for attendance officers who fail to act on truancy cases. Greater concern and vigilance on the part of principals, teachers, and attendance officers could, without doubt, be stimulated by imposing adequate penalties upon them for failure to perform.

Tendencies

By a comparison of earlier compulsory education laws with those enacted more recently, certain tendencies are noted with regard to compulsory education. Some of these tendencies are:

- (1) To lengthen the period of compulsory education by making it effective at an earlier and to a later age. The establishment of kindergartens and compulsory attendance for part-time continuation, or evening schools, are, in part, an expression of this tendency.
- (2) To increase the annual required school attendance.
- (3) To extend the compulsory provisions to include various handicapped children; also to provide parental schools for delinquents.
- (4) To require more education for exemption and for labor permits.
- (5) To require public relief to indigent children and subject them more to the attendance law.
- (6) To provide transportation for children not living within the usual walking distance from school.

COMPULSORY EDUCATION PROVISIONS BY STATES

Digests showing separately for each State important legislative provisions relating to compulsory education were prepared in the U. S. Bureau of Education and sent to the respective State departments of education for review and correction. All the digests, excepting one, have been checked, approved, and returned by the respective State departments of education. These digests so approved are here given.

ALABAMA

1. *Compulsory attendance age*—8-16.
2. *Minimum school term required*—No minimum term fixed by law.
3. *Minimum attendance required*—Full term, if not less than 100 days, provided that the county or city Board of education shall have power to reduce period of compulsory attendance to not less than 100 days.
4. *Exemptions*—
 - (a) Fourteen years of age and completed elementary course of study or the equivalent.
 - (b) Attendance at "a private, denominational, or parochial school, taught by a competent instructor," during full length of the school term in every scholastic year.
 - (c) "No public school within 2½ miles by the nearest traveled road, * * * unless public transportation within reasonable walking distance is provided."
 - (d) Children with "some physical or mental condition which renders attendance impracticable or inexpedient."
 - (e) Fourteen years of age and legally and regularly employed.
5. *Educational relief for children in poverty*—If, in prosecution for violation of the provisions for compulsory attendance, it is shown that the parent, guardian of the child or children is unable to provide necessary books and clothes in order to attend school in compliance with law, such parent or guardian shall be discharged, and such child or children shall be turned over to the juvenile court, or to the State Child Welfare Department to be dealt with as a dependent child.
6. *Age for admission*—Over 6 years of age.
7. *Age for labor permit*—14-16.
8. *Minimum education required for labor permit*—Sixth grade.

—*School Code of Alabama, 1924.*

ARIZONA

1. *Compulsory attendance age*—8-16.
2. *Minimum school term required*—Eight months.
3. *Minimum attendance required*—Full term.
4. *Exemptions*—
 - (a) Completed grammar-school course.
 - (b) Instruction at home by competent teacher in branches taught in common schools; or attendance at private or parochial school taught by competent teachers for full time public schools of the district are in session.
 - (c) Because physical or mental condition renders attendance inexpedient or impracticable.
 - (d) For reasons satisfactory to board, consisting of president of local board of trustees, teacher of the child, and probation officer.
 - (e) Children 14 to 16 lawfully employed and attending continuation school. (Attendance at continuation or part-time school is required for exemption only where such schools are provided.)¹
 - (f) Sixteen years of age and employed with the consent of its parents at some lawful wage-earning occupation.

¹ School districts where there shall have been issued 15 employment certificates, unless excused, shall establish continuation or part-time school.

5. *Educational relief for children in poverty*—When it shall appear to any attendance officer that any child within school age is unable to attend school because it has not proper clothing, or because it is required to work in order to properly support itself, or those legally entitled to its services, he shall report such fact to the juvenile court of such county, "and if it shall appear to the judge of such court, after investigation, that relief should be granted such child, in order that it may attend school, said judge may make such orders as may be necessary from the general funds of the county in like manner as other expenses for the maintenance of dependent children under the juvenile court act." (Session Laws, 1921, ch. 143.)
6. *Age for admission*—6-21.
7. *Age for labor permit*—14-16.
8. *Minimum education for labor permit*—Fifth grade.
—*School Laws of Arizona, 1925.*

ARKANSAS

1. *Compulsory attendance age*—7-15.
2. *Minimum school term required*—Six months, if within taxing limit district.
3. *Minimum attendance required*—Three-fourths of time public school in district is in session. Required to enter not later than two weeks after opening of session.
4. *Exemptions*—
- (a) "Children who have completed the common-school course of study, including the seventh grade as outlined by the State superintendent of public instruction."
 - (b) Instruction in approved "private or parochial school."
 - (c) "Children mentally or physically incapacitated to perform school duties."
 - (d) "Children whose services are needed to support widowed mothers."
5. *Educational relief for children in poverty*—Boards of school directors are authorized and required to furnish textbooks free to all children whose parents or guardians are unable, upon satisfactory evidence, to provide same. Textbooks so furnished by the district are to remain property of the district and to be taken up by the directors at the close of school and kept for further use. Boards of directors are authorized to pay for such textbooks furnished out of the district school funds (*Act 294, 1917*).
6. *Age for admission*—6-21.
7. *Age for labor permit*—14-16.
8. *Minimum education required for labor permit*—Fourth grade.
—*School Laws of Arkansas, 1925.*

CALIFORNIA

1. *Compulsory attendance age*—8-16 (until 18 in part-time schools).¹
2. *Minimum school term required*—170 days.
3. *Minimum attendance required*—Full term.
4. *Exemptions*—
- (a) Instruction in private full-time day school by capable teachers; provided that such schools teach in the English language and offer instruction in the branches of study required to be taught in public schools and provided that record of attendance of pupils be kept.

¹ See part-time education, p. 8.

4. *Exemptions—Continued.*

- (b) Instruction by private tutor, in study and recitation, for at least three hours a day for 160 days each calendar year, in branches of study required to be taught in public schools; provided that such instruction be given in the English language and by person capable of teaching and that the instruction shall be given between 8 a. m. and 4 p. m.
- (c) Children (certified by licensed physician) whose physical or mental condition prevents or renders inadvisable school attendance or application of study.
- (d) Children residing more than 2 miles from schoolhouse by nearest traveled road; provided that such children shall be exempted only upon written approval of the superintendent of schools of the county; notice whereof shall be filed with the board of education of the school district.
- (e) Children between 14 and 16 who hold labor permits.³

5. *Educational relief for children in poverty*—When it is shown, by any person, to the juvenile court that any child is "destitute," or neglected, or is homeless, said court may commit such child to detention home, or other institution suitably provided to maintain and care for such child. It is not expressly stated, but the implication is that children so committed may be required to attend school or otherwise receive instruction.

(*General Laws of Calif., Act 3966, secs. 1-22.*)

6. *Age for admission*—6-21.

7. *Age for labor permit*—14-16.

8. *Minimum education required for labor permit*—Seventh grade, if child is 15 years of age.

—*School Laws of California, 1925.*

COLORADO

1. *Compulsory attendance age*—8-16.

2. *Minimum school term required*—Six months. (Sec. 253.)

3. *Minimum attendance required*—Full term,³ from 8 to 14 years of age may be 12 weeks (sec. 266.)

4. *Exemptions*

- (a) Children over 14, if completed eighth grade or eligible to enter high school in district.
- (b) Instruction in private or parochial school for entire school year during which public schools are in session in district. Sufficient instruction in public school branches at home by person qualified to teach; child so instructed shall be subject to same examination as other pupils in district.
- (c) Children whose "bodily or mental condition does not permit" attendance at school, as certified by reputable physician.
- (d) Fourteen years of age and where child's "help is necessary for its own or its parents' support."
- (e) Fourteen years of age and "where for good cause shown it would be for the best interests of such child to be relieved from the provisions of this act."
- (f) Compulsory attendance requirements do not apply in districts where there are not sufficient accommodations in public schools to seat children.

³ See part-time education, p. 8.

⁴ "All minors over the age of 14 years and under 16 years who can not read and write the English language shall attend school at least one-half day of each day, or attend a public night school, or take regular private instruction from some person qualified in the opinion of the county superintendent of schools." (*Colorado School Laws, 1923, sec. 255.*)

5. *Educational relief for children in poverty*—Where parent or guardian is not able, by reason of poverty, to properly clothe any child for school attendance, "it shall be the duty of the school board of the proper district, upon the fact being shown to their satisfaction, to furnish the necessary clothing and pay for the same out of the school fund of such district."

(*Colorado School Laws, 1928, sec. 266.*)

6. *Age of admission*—6-21.

7. *Age for labor permit*—14-16.

8. *Minimum education required for labor permit*—Read and write (or attend day school one-half day per day or an evening school).³

—*School Laws of Colorado, 1923.*

CONNECTICUT

1. *Compulsory attendance age*—7-16.

2. *Minimum school term required*—38 weeks.

3. *Minimum attendance required*—Full term.⁴

4. *Exemptions*—

(a) If 14 and lawfully employed and if school authorities deem education sufficient to warrant leaving school to work.

(b) Where child receives approved instruction elsewhere during hours and term of public school.

(c) "Mental or physical condition is such as to render its instruction inexpedient or impracticable."

(d) Where "child is destitute of clothing suitable for attending school, and the parent or person having control of such child is unable to provide such clothing."

5. *Educational relief for children in poverty*—Any uncared-for and neglected children between the ages of 4 and 18 may be committed to any "temporary home" which shall be established in each county for the refuge of such children. The "temporary home" may place any child, which it has received, in private homes, providing the responsible person shall agree in writing to give said child, in addition to clothing, maintenance, and medical attendance, full opportunity to attend school during the terms and hours prescribed by the laws of the State, and also to give full opportunity to attend religious services and receive instruction in the faith of his parents, when that is known. The necessary extra expense incurred by any school district in providing school accommodations and instruction for the inmates of any "temporary home" located therein shall be paid by the county. The State board of education may provide books and apparatus to be used in the education of such children. Any girl between 8 and 16 adjudged to be illprovided for by her parents, or exposed to want with none to care for her, may be sent to the State Long Lane Farm; the said institution shall provide for the education of those committed thereto.

³ "All minors over the age of 14 years and under 16 years who can not read and write the English language shall attend school at least one-half day of each day, or attend a public night school, or take regular private instruction from some person qualified in the opinion of the county superintendent of schools." (*Colorado School Laws, 1923, sec. 265.*)

⁴ Every child between 14 and 16 years of age residing in a city, town, or district in which public continuation schools are maintained, having employment certificate and who has not completed the eighth grade or the equivalent, shall attend a public continuation school of such city, town, or district, or other continuation school during an equivalent course of instruction, for not less than 4 hours each week in school year, between 8 a. m. and 5 p. m.; unless, any child may be released from such requirement by the secretary or an agent of the State board of education, or by local school authorities.

6. *Age for admission*—School officials may admit, to any school, children over 5 years of age.
7. *Age for labor permit*—14-16.
8. *Minimum education required for² labor permit*—Completion of sixth grade or equivalent. (School authorities may require higher qualification.)¹
—*Connecticut School Document, 1922.*

DELAWARE

1. *Compulsory attendance age*—7-17 (7-16 in Wilmington city).
2. *Minimum school term required*—160 days.
3. *Minimum attendance required*—Full term.³ Children 7-14 must attend 160 days; children over 14 and not having completed eighth grade must attend not less than 100 days.
4. *Exemptions*—
 - (a) Where satisfactory evidence is furnished to the proper public-school authorities "that such child is elsewhere receiving regular and thorough instruction during said minimum school year" in subjects prescribed for the elementary schools, and "in a manner suitable to children of the same age and stage of advancement."
Provided that written certificate from private school shall be satisfactory evidence that child is receiving regular and thorough instruction in the required studies.
 - (b) Fourteen years of age and completed eighth grade and "legally employed."
 - (c) Where mental or physical condition is such as to render instruction inexpedient or impracticable.
 - (d) School officials may excuse, subject to the rules and regulations of State board of education, "cases of necessity and legal absence."
5. *Educational relief for children in poverty*—The Elizabeth W. Murphy School (Inc.), located at Dover, is organized for the purpose of establishing and maintaining "a home and school for the education and training of poor and dependent white children of Kent County and State of Delaware, who are, when received, between the ages of 2 and 10 years." (*Laws of 1925, ch. 156.*)
6. *Age for admission*—6-21.
7. *Age for labor permit*—14-16.
8. *Minimum education required for labor permit*—Completion of elementary school course, with exceptions.
Every school district in which there reside or are employed 15 or more children 12 to 16 to whom employment certificates have been granted shall establish a part-time school, unless excused by State authority.

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

1. *Compulsory attendance age*—7-16.
2. *Minimum school term required*—Nine months.
3. *Minimum attendance required*—Full term.

¹ Every child between 14 and 16 years of age residing in a city, town, or district in which public continuation schools are maintained, having employment certificate and who has not completed the eighth grade or the equivalent, shall attend a public continuation school of such city, town, or district, or other continuation school during an equivalent course of instruction, for not less than 4 hours each week in school year, between 8 a. m. and 5 p. m.; unless, any child may be released from such requirement by the secretary of an agent of the State board of education, or by local school authorities.

² All minors under 16 must attend an all-day school or be legally employed. A child between 12 and 16 who has been granted a certificate to leave school to engage in legal employment shall attend a part-time school (if such a school is in district where minor resides or is employed) at least 4 hours each week for 36 weeks per year, while so employed; if temporarily unemployed, must attend such part-time school 20 hours per week.

4. Exemptions—

- (a) Where instruction in private or parochial school, or private instruction, is deemed equivalent by board of education to the instruction given in the public schools.
 - (b) Any child 14 years of age who has completed satisfactorily the eighth grade or equivalent may be excused by superintendent, provided such child is actually, lawfully, and regularly employed.
 - (c) Excused if it is found upon examination that any child is "unable mentally or physically to profit from attendance at school: Provided, however, that if such examination shows that such child may benefit from specialized instruction adapted to his needs, he shall attend upon such instruction."
 - (d) May be excused for reasons defined as valid by board of education. The following have been authorized as valid excuses by the board:
 - (1) Illness of pupil, in which case a physician's certificate may be required.
 - (2) Death in immediate family of the pupil.
 - (3) Exclusion by direction of health office.
 - (4) Subpoena by court of competent jurisdiction.
 - (5) Detention of pupil by civil authorities.
 - (6) Observance of church holy days by communicants thereof.
 - (7) Unusual emergency.
5. *Educational relief for children in poverty*—None mentioned.
6. *Age for admission*—6. If 6 by November 15, may enter first grade; if 5 by same date may enter kindergarten.
7. *Age for labor permit*—14-16.
8. *Minimum education required for labor permit*—Eighth grade.

—By-Laws and Rules of District of
Columbia Board of Education, 1926.

FLORIDA

- 1. *Compulsory attendance age*—7-16.
- 2. *Minimum school term required*—four months; "few schools in the State have so short a term."
- 3. *Minimum attendance required*—"Substantially" full term.*
- 4. *Exemptions*—
 - (a) Any child who has satisfactorily completed the eighth grade or the equivalent acceptable to the county superintendent.
 - (b) Residence more than 2 miles for children 7-9 and more than 3 miles for children 10-16 from school and no free transportation.
 - (c) Instruction in an approved private school where record of attendance is kept.

* Part-time school attendance required: Any child exempted from regular school attendance for any cause except physical or mental disability or the completion of the eighth grade shall, where a part-time school is provided, attend such school for at least 144 hours in any one school year.

In school districts in which there are 15 children, who, for any cause except physical or mental disability or completion of eight grammar grades, are exempted from regular school attendance upon any school or schools 3 miles or less apart and who reside or are employed within attendance area of such school or schools, the local board is required to provide a part-time school.

4. Exemptions—Continued.

- (d) Provided that child may be taught by parent or guardian or private tutor upon written authority from county superintendent. (The county superintendent is authorized to grant such permission only in cases of necessity.) Person receiving such instruction must report to county school authorities for examination twice each year; if such child fails to make satisfactory progress, authority for private instruction may be revoked.
- (e) Mentally or physically incapacitated to perform school duties, proof of such to be shown attendance officer.
- (f) Any child whose services are necessary for support or assistance of widowed mother or other dependent shown by affidavit and other proof to satisfaction of attendance officer.
- (g) Any child whose parent or guardian can make satisfactory proof that he or she is unable to provide necessary books and clothing, unless necessary books and clothing shall be furnished by other means.
- (h) "Any unusual case acceptable to the attendance officer."
- (i) "Occasional nonattendance * * * amounting to not more than four days unexcused absence in any school month shall not render any parent or guardian" liable to penalty.
- (j) Any child 14 properly employed and enrolled in a part-time school may at the discretion of board of education be exempted from regular school attendance. (Boards must exempt where Federal funds and corresponding State funds are available for salaries of teachers of part-time schools.)

5. *Educational relief for children in poverty*—School boards are "required to furnish free of cost to any child not over 15 years of age whose father or mother or either of them is on the roll of the county poor, and any child who is an orphan under the age of 15 years, and who is without the necessary means to procure the same, or who has no brother or other near relative who has the necessary means, or to any child, not over said age, whose parents are poor, and indigent or afflicted, and are financially unable to procure the same for such child, all the school textbooks necessary for the use of the child, upon requisition made therefor by the teacher of such child, accompanied by the affidavit of not less than two reputable citizens, taxpayers of the county, certifying to such financial condition of such child or its parents, and upon the recommendation of the county superintendent." (*Acts, 1911, ch. 6163, sec. 1.*)

Pension granted to dependent mothers on condition that their children of school age are kept in school. (*Acts of 1919, ch. 7920.*)

6. *Age for admission*—8-21.

7. *Age for labor permit*—14-16.

8. *Minimum education required for labor permit*—Read and write, proficiency in certain subjects required.

—*School Laws of Florida, 1925.*

GEORGIA

1. *Compulsory attendance age*—8-14.

2. *Minimum school term required*—Six months.

3. *Minimum attendance required*—Six months.

Exemptions—

- (a) Completion of seventh grade.
 - (b) Temporarily excused where, "for good reasons, the sufficiency of which shall be determined by local board of education." (Boards, in granting excuses to children in farming districts, are authorized to consider the seasons for agricultural labor and need of such labor.)
 - (c) Attendance at "some other school giving instruction in ordinary branches of English education."
 - (d) May be temporarily excused by principal or teacher in charge "because of bad weather, sickness, death in the child's family, or other reasonable cause."
 - (e) *Provided*, That no guardian shall be compelled to send such child or children to school out of any other than the funds belonging to the ward or wards." (*Ga. Code, 1926, sec. 1551 (193).*)
5. *Educational relief for children in poverty*—It shall be the duty of any citizen of the State to report to any court any child between 4 and 14 who is found begging, or homeless and without parental care, or in the hands of immoral persons. The court shall examine the facts and may order such child to be committed to the Georgia Industrial Home or other similar undenominational institution in the State, until such child has attained 16 years of age. No dependent or uncared-for child shall be indentured for employment unless the indenture shall insure to the child so bound "such treatment, education, or instruction as shall be suitable and useful to its situation and circumstance in life." (*Ga. Code, 1926, secs. 2848, 2862, 2863.*) Boards of education are authorized to provide free textbooks to indigent children. (*Acts of 1923.*)
6. *Age for admission*—6-18.
7. *Age for labor permit*—14.
8. *Minimum education required for labor permit*—Ability to read and write simple sentences.

—*Georgia School Code.*

IDAHO

- 1. *Compulsory attendance age*—8-18.
- 2. *Minimum school term required*—Seven months.
- 3. *Minimum attendance required*—Full term.
- 4. *Exemptions*—
 - (a) Any child 15 having completed eighth grade or eligible to enter high school in district.
 - (b) Attendance for similar period at an approved private or parochial school.
 - (c) Any child 15 whose help is necessary for its own or parents' support or "where for good cause shown it would be for the best interest of such child to be relieved from the provision of this article."
 - (d) Where it is shown that "child's bodily or mental condition does not permit its attendance at school."
- 5. *Educational relief for children in poverty*—Any incorporated benevolent or charitable society having for its object the receiving, aiding, caring for, and improving the condition of "orphan, homeless, neglected, or abused children, of this State, shall have authority to receive, control, train, educate, aid, care for" such children under 18 years of age surrendered to said institution. (*Idaho Compiled Statutes, 1910, ch. 290.*)

6. *Age for admission*—6-21.
7. *Age for labor permit*—14-16.
8. *Minimum education required for labor permit*—Proficiency in certain subjects, no grade specified.

—*School Laws of Idaho, 1921.*

ILLINOIS

1. *Compulsory attendance age*—7-16 (until 18 where continuation schools are established—see Part-Time Education, p. 8).
2. *Minimum school term required*—Seven months.
3. *Minimum attendance required*—Full term.
4. *Exemptions*—
 - (a) Instruction for a like period in each and every year in the elementary branches by a competent teacher, such instruction to be given in the English language.
 - (b) Instruction for a like period in the elementary branches in a private or parochial school.
 - (c) Where child's physical or mental condition renders his or her attendance impracticable or inexpedient.
 - (d) Excused for temporary absence for cause by the principal or teacher of school which child attends.
 - (e) Children over 14 years of age who are necessarily and lawfully employed during hours when public school is in session may be excused from attendance at school by county or city superintendent on the recommendation of board of education of district in which such children reside.
 - (f) Any child from 12 to 14 while attending confirmation classes conducted not less than five months in year.
5. *Educational relief for children in poverty*—"To purchase, at the expense of the district, a sufficient number of textbooks used to supply children whose parents are unable to buy them. Such textbooks shall be loaned only, and the directors shall require the teacher to see that they are properly cared for and returned at the end of each term of school."—(*Illinois School Law, 1925, sec. 114.*)
6. *Age for admission*—6-21.
7. *Age for labor permit*—14-16.
8. *Minimum education required for labor permit*—Completion of sixth grade.

—*School Laws of Illinois, 1925.*

INDIANA

1. *Compulsory attendance age*—7-16.
2. *Minimum school term required*—Six months. "The practice is eight months."
3. *Minimum attendance required*—Full term.
4. *Exemptions*—
 - (a) Any child 14 years of age and employed on employment certificate, which can not be obtained until completion of eighth grade. Any child so exempted must return to school within five days after the termination of the employment for which employment certificate was issued.
 - (b) Attendance for similar time at "other school taught in the English language which is open to the inspection of local and State attendance and school officers."
 - (c) "Any child found mentally or physically unfit for school attendance."
 - (d) Upon request of parent, employment certificate issuing officer may issue temporary permits for causes other than employment.

5. *Educational relief for children in poverty*—If any parent or guardian having control of any child does not have sufficient means to furnish such child with books, school supplies, and clothing necessary to attend school, then the school corporation wherein such child resides shall furnish temporary aid for such purpose, which aid shall be allowed and repaid to such corporation by the township overseer of the poor in the manner provided by law for the relief of the poor upon showing of itemized statement of such temporary aid.—(*School Laws of Indiana sec. 702.*)
6. *Age for admission*—6-21.
7. *Age for labor permit*—14-16; granted only when the labor of the child is necessary for the support of himself or his immediate family.
8. *Minimum education required for labor permit*—Completion of eighth grade.
—*Laws of Indiana Relating to Public School System, 1923.*

IOWA

1. *Compulsory attendance age*—7-16.
2. *Minimum school term required*—32 weeks.
3. *Minimum attendance required*—24 consecutive school weeks each school year. The board may require attendance for full-time when school is in session. (See "Part-Time Education," p. 8.)
4. *Exemptions*—
- (a) Those who have completed the eighth grade or whose education qualifications are equivalent.
 - (b) Those who are over 14 and are regularly employed.
 - (c) "Anyone who is excused for sufficient reason by judge of any court of record."
 - (d) "While attending religious services or receiving religious instruction."
 - (e) Receiving instruction in approved private school for like period, or instruction by a competent teacher elsewhere than at school.
 - (f) Any child physically or mentally unable to attend school. Deaf and blind must attend State institution for such persons.
 - (g) If school is more than 2 miles from child's home, unless free transportation is furnished.
5. *Educational relief for children in poverty*—Any institution maintained for the purpose of caring for, placing out for adoption, or otherwise improving the condition of unfortunate children, may receive neglected, dependent, or delinquent children voluntarily surrendered to such institution or committed thereto from the juvenile court. All children in such institution over 7 and under 14 years of age shall be kept in public school during school session, or in some parochial school for a like period. Children who are neglected or dependent and not committed as above indicated may be committed or voluntarily received either in the soldiers' orphans' home, or in the State juvenile home, both of which provide education for its inmates. (*Code of Iowa, chs. 180, 182, 184, 185.*)
6. *Age for admission*—5-21.
7. *Age for labor permit*—14-16.
8. *Minimum education required for labor permit*—Completion of "the course of study prescribed for the elementary schools by the State board of education."

KANSAS

1. *Compulsory attendance age*—7-16.
2. *Minimum school term required*—Eight months.
3. *Minimum attendance required*—Full term.
4. *Exemptions*—
 - (a) Completion of eighth grade.
 - (b) Attendance in private, denominational, or parochial school taught by competent instructor for a term equal to that of the public school, provided that all instruction be given in the English language.
 - (c) Any child who is physically or mentally incapacitated for the work of the common schools, when such condition is shown by certificate of physician.
 - (d) Attendance not required where access to school is dangerous. (*Williams V. Parsons, 79 K 202-207.*)
5. *Educational relief for children in poverty*—When any child under 16 shall be found to be dependent or neglected, the juvenile court may commit such child to the care of some suitable institution, or of some reputable citizen of good moral character, or some training school or industrial school, or some association willing to receive it, or in some hospital if child's health requires it. (*Laws of 1905, ch. 190, sec. 7.*) Dependent and delinquent children who are inmates of any county "detention home" "shall be placed in the public schools where possible, or, if it be so determined, the commissioners may provide for separate instruction within the home" (*Laws of 1907, ch. 177, sec. 8; rev. sch. law. 1923.*)
6. *Age for admission*—6-21 (5-21 in cities of second class).
7. *Age for labor permit*—14-16.
8. *Minimum education required for labor permit*—Completion of elementary school course.

—*Revised School Laws of Kansas, 1923.*

KENTUCKY

1. *Compulsory attendance age*—7-16.
2. *Minimum school term required*—Seven months.
3. *Minimum attendance required*—Full term.
4. *Exemptions*—
 - (a) Completion of "the full course of instruction offered by the public schools of the district where he [child] resides."
 - (b) Attendance regularly at private or parochial school for a period each year equal to the term of the public school when teachers of such school have been approved by State board of education and when reports of attendance of all children in such schools are submitted in the manner required of common schools.
 - (c) Any child who is physically or mentally unfit for school attendance as certified by public health officer.
 - (d) Any child 14 and lawfully employed.

6. *Educational relief for children in poverty*—"It shall be the duty of each county superintendent, before the opening of the schools each year, * * * by personal observation or from trustees and teachers and otherwise to ascertain the number and cost of textbooks * * * needed by the indigent children of * * * the county for the use in common schools and shall report to the county judge the number and kind needed, when the county judge shall purchase the books and pay for them by an allowance made by the fiscal court of the county;" provided the cost shall not exceed \$200 per annum. (*Kentucky Stat., sec. 4405.*)

6. *Age for admission*—8-18.

7. *Age for labor permit*—14-16.

8. *Minimum education required for labor permit*—Completion of fifth-grade.
—*Common School Laws of Kentucky, 1922.*

LOUISIANA

1. *Compulsory attendance age*—7-14.

2. *Minimum school term required*—Seven months.

3. *Minimum attendance required*—140 days; entire session if less than 140 days.

4. *Exemptions*—(The parish school board to be sole judge in all cases.)

(a) Completion of elementary course of study.

(b) "Children mentally or physically incapacitated to perform school duties."

(c) "Children living more than 2½ miles from a school of suitable grade and for whom free transportation is not furnished by the school board."

(d) "Children for whom adequate school facilities have not been provided."

(e) "Children whose services are needed to support widowed mothers."

5. *Educational relief for children in poverty*—Parish school boards shall have authority to furnish textbooks free of charge. (*Act No. 100, 1922.*)

6. *Age for admission*—6-18.

7. *Age for labor permit*—14-16.

8. *Minimum education required for labor permit*—No provision.

—(*Public School Laws of Louisiana, 1923.*)

MAINE

1. *Compulsory attendance age*.—7-17.

2. *Minimum school term required*.—Seven and one-half months.

3. *Minimum attendance required*.—Full term.

4. *Exemptions*—

(a) Sixteen years of age and can read and write legibly simple sentences in English language.

(b) Fifteen years of age and has completed the eighth grade.

(c) Attendance at private school for a like period of time the public school is in session and whose course of study and methods of instruction have been approved by the State superintendent of schools.

(d) Any child whose physical or mental condition makes it "inexpedient" for him to attend.

(e) Fifteen years of age and has permit to work during school hours.

(f) May be excused for necessary absence.

5. *Educational relief for children in poverty.*—Upon complaint in writing, signed by proper agent, or by three or more citizens of any town, that any child is willfully neglected by its parents, or by the willful failure of such parents "is not provided with suitable food, clothing, or the privilege of education * * * and praying that suitable and proper provision may be made for the care, custody, support, and education of the child," the magistrate or judge to whom such complaint is made shall issue a warrant for trial of such child. "If upon hearing it shall appear that any material allegations of said complaint are true, the court may order said child into the care and custody of any suitable person or any duly incorporated children's institution or child welfare organization consenting to receive same, whose standards of care and maintenance are approved by the State board or into the custody of the State board itself." When any court shall place any neglected child under the control of a private person, it shall first take a bond from such person, payable to the town where the child resides, to insure that such person "shall humanely treat and properly support, clothe, and educate the child, and in case of non-performance of said bond, a suit may be commenced thereon."

If any child is ordered into the custody of the State board or if placed with a private person who failed to conform to his agreement, said board shall provide for its maintenance and education. "At the request of the parents or next friend of any dependent child under 16 years of age who is without parent or grandparent of sufficient ability, or without other relatives able and willing to provide for its care, said request being approved by the municipal board of the city or town where the child is domiciled or by any duly incorporated children's institution or organization, the State board may make similar provision, without intervention of court, for the care of such child." (*Laws of Maine, 1919, ch. 170.*)

6. *Age for admission*—5-21.

7. *Age for labor permits*—15; unless mentally unable to make reasonable progress in school, in which case work permit may be granted at 14 for non-hazardous occupations.

8. *Minimum education required for labor permit*—Completion of eighth grade or equivalent. —*Laws of Maine Relating to Public Schools, 1925.*

MARYLAND

1. *Compulsory attendance age*—7-17 (6 to 18 for deaf and blind children).

2. *Minimum school term required*—180 actual days for white, 8 months for colored.

3. *Minimum attendance required*—Full term.

4. *Exemptions*—

(a) Fifteen years of age and completed the elementary school course.

(b) Regular and thorough instruction elsewhere during the same period and in the same studies usually required in public school, until completion of equivalent to elementary school course.

(c) Where physical or mental condition renders instruction inexpedient or impracticable.

(d) May be excused for "necessary and legal absence."

(e) Only 100 days' attendance required if between 13 and 15 years of age and regularly and lawfully employed to labor at home or on farm; if not so employed, full-term attendance required.

(f) Only 100 days' attendance required if between 15 and 17 years of age and regularly and lawfully employed to labor at home or on farm and not completed elementary school course; if not so employed, full-term attendance required.

4. Exemptions—Continued.

- (g) Where weather is dangerous to safety of child when in transit to and from school.
- (h) In Baltimore, 14 years of age and "regularly and lawfully employed."
5. Educational relief for children in poverty—State relief may be granted to any worthy and dependent mother "unable to support and educate her children" so long as she "is properly caring for her children; that they are sufficiently clothed and fed; that they attend school regularly [providing such children are of proper school age and physically able to attend] and that said family shall be visited at least once every two months."

The circuit court, sitting in juvenile causes, whenever it is shown that the parent or guardian of any child is unfit or unable or unwilling to care for, protect, train, educate, or discipline said child, may order the said child into the custody of some agency, or some suitable institution organized for the care of children, until it becomes 21; and the agency or institution receiving the said child "shall exercise proper care for the schooling and training of such child." (*Art. 26, An. Code of Md.*)

6. Age for admission—6-20.
7. Age for labor permit—14-16.
8. Minimum education required for labor permit—In Baltimore, completion of fifth grade; outside of Baltimore completion of seventh grade required.
—*Maryland Public School Laws, 1922.*

MASSACHUSETTS

1. Compulsory attendance age—7-16. (*See Part-Time Education, p. 8.*)
2. Minimum school term required—160 days of elementary; 180 days high school actually in session.
3. Minimum attendance required—Full term.
4. Exemptions—
- Fourteen years of age and meets requirements for completion of sixth grade and is lawfully and regularly employed.
 - Town superintendent may excuse child 14 years of age for profitable employment at home.
 - Where physical or mental condition is such as to render attendance inexpedient or impracticable.
 - Otherwise instructed in a manner approved in advance by the superintendent of the school committee; instruction may be in private school so approved.
 - Superintendent, or teachers authorized by him or by the school committee, may excuse cases of necessary absence for other causes not exceeding 7 day sessions or 14 half-day sessions in any period of 6 months.
5. Educational relief for children in poverty—"The department of public welfare shall make all necessary provision for the care and maintenance of poor and indigent children between 3 and 21 years of age needing immediate relief and having no lawful settlements in the Commonwealth."
(*Gen. Laws of Mass., 1921, ch. 119, sec. 27.*)
- State aid may be given to mothers of "dependent children under the age of 14 or between 14 and 16 if and during the time such children attend school as required" by law, who shall have resided in the State not less than three years. (*Acts, 1922, ch. 376.*)
6. Age for admission—Any age.
7. Age for labor permit—14-16.
8. Minimum education required for labor permit—Completion of sixth grade.

MICHIGAN

1. *Compulsory attendance age*—7-16: (See Part-Time Education, p. 8.)
2. *Minimum school term required*—Seven months.
3. *Minimum attendance required*—Full term; three-fourths of term if school is maintained entire year.
4. *Exemptions*—
 - (a) Children in nonhigh-school districts who have completed the eighth grade or who are entitled to eighth-grade diploma; if in high-school district, they must attend school until 16, unless authorized to leave by local authorities.
 - (b) Receiving regular instruction in private or parochial school in branches taught in public school.
 - (c) Children under 9 years of age and who do not live within $2\frac{1}{2}$ miles by nearest traveled road of some public school, unless free transportation is furnished.
 - (d) Any child who is regularly employed as a page or messenger in either branch of the legislature.
 - (e) Any child who is physically unable to attend school.
 - (f) Any child over 14 years of age who has completed the sixth grade and whose services are essential to the support of his parents may be excused by local school authorities, providing the work the child is to do does not require a labor permit; or if the child is 15 years of age and is granted a labor permit.
 - (g) Children 12 to 14 while attending at confirmation classes, which attendance is not to exceed five months in any year.
5. *Educational relief for children in poverty*—"The district board may purchase at the expense of the district such textbooks as may be necessary for the use of children when parents are not able to furnish the same, and they shall include the amount of such purchase in the report to the township clerk or clerks, to be levied in like manner as other district taxes." (5883 Michigan Stat.) (General School Law, 1926.)
6. *Age for admission*—5-20.
7. *Age for labor permit*—15-16.
8. *Minimum education required for labor permit*—Completion of sixth grade.

MINNESOTA

1. *Compulsory attendance age*—8-16.
2. *Minimum school term required*—Seven months.
3. *Minimum attendance required*—Full term; provided that no child shall be required to attend more than 10 months.
4. *Exemptions*—
 - (a) Any child who has completed the eighth grade.
 - (b) Child attending private or other school for similar period, provided all the common branches are taught in the English language by teacher or teachers qualified.
 - (c) District board of education may excuse any child whose bodily or mental condition is such as to prevent attendance at school with profit.
 - (d) May be excused not more than three hours per week to attend religious instruction.

4. Exemptions—Continued.

(e) "That there is no public school within reasonable distance of his [child's] residence, or that conditions of weather and travel make it impossible for the child to attend; provided, first, that any child 14 years of age or over, whose help may be required in any permitted occupation in or about the home of his parent or guardian may be excused from attendance between April 1 and November 1 in any year; but this proviso shall not apply to any city of the first and second class; provided, second, that nothing in this act shall be construed to prevent a child from being absent from school on such days as said child attends upon instruction according to the ordinances of some church."

5. *Educational relief for children in poverty*—Every school board of any district shall investigate or cause to be investigated all cases reported to it or coming to its knowledge of any child within its jurisdiction required by law to attend school that it is claimed to be unable to do so by reason of the fact that the services of such child are required for its support or to assist in the support or care of others legally entitled to its services. When the board of education shall report to the county auditor of the county in which the school district is situated the facts as ascertained by them and that such relief is necessary, thereupon the county board may, after investigation, furnish such relief as will enable the child to attend school during the entire school year, such relief to be furnished by such county board from the poor fund of the county, and the board of education of the school district shall furnish for the use of such child the necessary textbooks free of charge. (*Laws of 1921 chap. ch. 429.*)
6. *Age for admission*—5-21; school boards may exclude children under 6.
7. *Age for labor permits*—14-16.
8. *Minimum education required for labor permits*—Completion of common-school course or its equivalent in private school.

—*Laws of Minnesota Relating to the
Public School System, 1923.*

MISSISSIPPI

1. *Compulsory attendance age*—7-16.
2. *Minimum school term required*—Four months.
3. *Minimum attendance required*—80 days.
4. *Exemptions*—
 - (a) Completion of grammar-school course or equivalent.
 - (b) Instruction in "private, denominational, or parochial day school by competent instructor for like period."
 - (c) Where there are "no schools of suitable grade within 2½ miles, by the nearest traveled road, * * * unless free transportation is furnished."
 - (d) That "the trustees of any school, with the approval of the county superintendent of education, shall have the authority in the exercise of their discretion to permit the temporary absence of children from school * * * in extreme cases of emergency."
 - (e) All children who are mentally and physically incapacitated for school work.
 - (f) "All counties that have heretofore voted from under the provisions of the compulsory school law shall be exempt from the provisions of this chapter." These counties are Franklin, Jefferson, Claiborne, and Wilkinson.

5. *Educational relief for children in poverty*—If any parent or guardian shows to the superintendent or principal that he is unable to furnish his child with books for attending school, said superintendent or principal shall at once, if he decides the case has merit, report in writing the facts to the county superintendent of education, who shall make a thorough investigation, and if he finds such claims to be true, he shall in his discretion present the case to the board of supervisors, who are authorized and instructed to provide such books as may be necessary to equip such child for attendance at school.
6. *Age for admission*—5-21.
7. *Age for labor permit*—14-16.
8. *Minimum education required for labor permit*—None mentioned.

MISSOURI

1. *Compulsory attendance age*—7-16. (See Part-Time Education, p. 8.)
2. *Minimum school term required*—Eight months.
3. *Minimum attendance required*—Full term.
4. *Exemptions*—
 - (a) Completion of common-school course or equivalent and has received a certificate of graduation therefrom.
 - (b) Receiving instruction in a private, parochial, or parish school for like period; or regular daily instruction at home as approved by a court of competent jurisdiction.
 - (c) Any child who is mentally or physically incapacitated to attend school.
 - (d) Any child who is 14 years of age and is regularly and lawfully engaged for at least six hours each day in some useful employment or service.
5. *Educational relief for children in poverty*—The following children, whether resident or nonresident, if they are unable to pay tuition shall have the privilege of attending school in any district in the State: Orphan children, children bound as apprentices, children with only one parent living, and children whose parents do not contribute to their support. (11135 Rev. Stat. Missouri, 1919.) School boards may purchase necessary books for indigent pupils. (Rev. Stat. 1919, 11385.)
6. *Age for admission*—6-20.
7. *Age for labor permit*—14-16.
8. *Minimum education required for labor permit*—None mentioned.
—Missouri Revised School Laws, 1923.

MONTANA

1. *Compulsory attendance age*—8-16. (See Part-Time Education, p. 8.)
2. *Minimum school term required*—Nine months in first and second class districts; four months in third class districts. (The constitution requires six months of school in any district before that district can qualify for a share in the apportionment of State school funds.)
3. *Minimum attendance required*—Full term.
4. *Exemptions*—
 - (a) Children 14 years of age or over who have completed the eighth grade.
 - (b) Children 14 years of age whose wages are necessary to the support of the family.
 - (c) Attending for a like period at a private or parochial school, or receiving instruction at home in required branches by competent teacher.

4. *Exemptions*—Continued.

(d) Any child whose bodily or mental condition does not permit attendance.

(e) If in the judgment of the county superintendent the distance of the school makes attendance an undue hardship.

5. *Educational relief for children in poverty*—If any child is unable to attend school because absolutely required to work to support itself or others legally entitled to its services, the truant officer shall report the case to authorities charged with the relief of the poor, who shall afford such relief as will enable the child to attend school the required time each year. If the child or its parents refuse or neglect to take advantage of the provisions thus made, such child shall be committed to the industrial school. In case where relief, including books, medical aid, and clothing is necessary, it shall be the duty of the board of trustees to furnish such aid free of charge. The said board of trustees may furnish any further relief it may deem necessary. The relief given is to be paid from the general fund of the school district. (*School Laws of Montana, sec. 1108.*)

6. *Age for admission*—6-21.

7. *Age for labor permit*—14-16.

8. *Minimum education required for labor permit*—Completion of eighth grade, but if it is shown that the wages of such child are necessary to the support of the family of such child, the principal or superintendent of schools may upon production of satisfactory evidence of such necessity issue a certificate permitting employment of such child even though the child may not have completed the eighth grade.

—*School Laws of Montana, 1921-22.*

NEBRASKA

1. *Compulsory attendance age*—7-16. (See Part-Time Education, p. 8.)

2. *Minimum school term required*—Six months in districts with less than 10 pupils; nine months in districts with 10 or more pupils.

3. *Minimum attendance required*—Six months; in city and metropolitan city school districts full-term attendance is required.

4. *Exemptions*—

(a) Any child who has graduated from high school, or if no high school is maintained in the district, has graduated from the school maintained in the district or from a school of equal grade.

(b) Regular attendance at an approved private, denominational, or parochial day school for a like period.

(c) Any child physically or mentally incapacitated for the work done in school.

(d) Any child 14 years of age whose services are necessary for his own support or the support of others actually dependent on him, provided such child has completed the eighth grade.

5. *Educational relief for children in poverty*—A dependent child may be admitted to the Nebraska Home for Dependent Children, provided that the parent or guardian of such child is unable to pay the cost of its care and maintenance; such cost shall have been met or provided for by the county board of the county wherein such child resides. An appropriation is made from the general fund of the State for the education in the public schools of the children in the custody of the said State home. All children under 16 in the custody of the State home shall attend school.

6. *Age for admission*—5-21.

7. *Age for labor permits*—14-16.
8. *Minimum education required for labor permits*—Completion of eighth grade or literacy in English plus attendance at evening or part-time school. (See Part-Time Education, p. 8.)

—*School Laws of Nebraska, 1925-26.*

NEVADA

1. *Compulsory attendance age*—7-18.
2. *Minimum school term required*—Six months; eight months if funds permit.
3. *Minimum attendance required*—Full term.
4. *Exemptions*—
 - (a) Completed the elementary and high-school courses.
 - (b) Any child whose bodily or mental condition or attitude is such as to prevent or render inadvisable attendance at school.
 - (c) Any child who is receiving under private or public tutelage, at home or in school, equivalent instruction approved by school trustees.
 - (d) Any child 14 years of age or more who must labor for its own or its parents' support.
 - (e) Where the deputy superintendent shall determine that a child's residence is located at such distance from public school as to render attendance impracticable or unsafe.
 - (f) Any "student" between 14 and 18 years of age who has completed the eighth grade may be excused from full-time school attendance and be permitted to enter proper employment or apprenticeship, by authority of the board of trustees. (See Part-Time Education, p. 8.)
5. *Educational relief for children in poverty*—The children of the State orphans' home shall be entitled to attend the Carson City public school and to receive therein the full attention, protection, and instruction accorded to any other children. The board of directors of the State orphans' home shall furnish the children of the home who are attending school all textbooks, supplementary books, and necessary school supplies, and also a sufficient supply of proper library books.
6. *Age for admission*—Any age.
7. *Age for labor permit*—14-18.
8. *Minimum education required for labor permit*—Completion of elementary school course.

NEW HAMPSHIRE

1. *Compulsory attendance age*—8-16. (See Part-Time Education, p. 8.)
2. *Minimum school term required*—Nine months.
3. *Minimum attendance required*—Full term.
4. *Exemptions*—
 - (a) Any child more than 14 years of age who has completed the elementary school course.
 - (b) Any child who has attended an approved private school for period equal to that of public school.
 - (c) Where "physical or mental condition is such as to prevent his attendance or to make it undesirable."
 - (d) May be excused for part of session on stated days to receive instruction in music.
 - (e) Fourteen years of age and excused by State superintendent "for such period as seems best for the interest of the child" on ground that his "welfare" will be best served by withdrawal from school.

6. *Educational relief for children in poverty*—It shall be the duty of overseers of the poor and county commissioners, as soon as practicable, to find permanent homes for all orphan minors, and to make contracts for their education and support during minority. The overseers of the poor for any town, or the county commissioners for any county, may send to any orphan's home in State or other institution devoted to or suitable for the care, protection, and education of children, upon such terms as may be agreed upon, any child who is not employed in lawful business, and whose parents are unable or neglect to maintain the same.
6. *Age for admission*—6-21.
7. *Age for labor permits*—14-16.
8. *Minimum education required for labor permits*—Read and write simple sentences in English.

NEW JERSEY

1. *Compulsory attendance age*—7-16.
2. *Minimum school term required*—Nine months.
3. *Minimum attendance required*—Full term.
4. *Exemptions*—
- (a) Where a child receives equivalent instruction elsewhere than at school
 - (b) Any child who is above 14 and has completed a course of study equivalent to five yearly grades, and has been granted an age and schooling certificate and is regularly and lawfully employed in some useful occupation. (See Part-Time Education, p. 8.)
 - (c) Where it is shown that the mental or bodily condition of the child is such as to prevent attendance at school.
5. *Educational relief for children in poverty*—Any school district may maintain a special school of instruction for the purpose of restraining and instructing dependent and delinquent children under 16 years of age. When such schools are established, they are a part of the public school system and shall receive, restrain, and instruct dependent and delinquent children. (*New Jersey School Law, 1921, secs. 457 and 458.*)
6. *Age for admission*—5-20.
7. *Age for labor permits*—14-16.
8. *Minimum education required for labor permit*—Read and write and completion of a course of study equivalent to five yearly grades, and have 130 days school attendance during the 12 months immediately preceding application.

NEW MEXICO

1. *Compulsory attendance age*—6-16.
2. *Minimum school term required*—Seven months.
3. *Minimum attendance required*—Full term.
4. *Exemptions*—
- (a) Child attending approved private or denominational school for a like period.
 - (b) Any child residing more than 3 miles from public school and no free transportation furnished.
 - (c) Any child physically or mentally unfit.
 - (d) Any child 14 and excused by issuance of employment certificate.¹

¹ Part-time school attendance: The law seems to imply (not expressly stated) that where part-time schools are provided, children between 14 and 16 to whom employment certificates have been issued shall attend a part-time school 5 hours per week, 150 hours per year, between 8 a. m. and 6 p. m. School districts in which there have been issued 15 employment certificates to children 14 to 16 shall provide part-time schools.

5. *Educational relief for children in poverty*—"Governing authorities of school districts shall have power to purchase school books and school supplies for indigent school attendance children and loan such books and such supplies to such children to enable them to attend school to advantage, but not more than Fifty Dollars (\$50) shall be spent therefor in any district during any school term." (*New Mexico School Code, 1925, sec. 1423.*)
6. *Age for admission*—5-21.
7. *Age for labor permits*—14-16.
8. *Minimum education required for labor permits*—None mentioned.
—*New Mexico School Code, 1925.*

NEW YORK

1. *Compulsory attendance age*—7-16 in districts with 4,500 population or more and employing a superintendent; 8-16 in small districts; until 18 where continuation schools are provided—see *Part-Time Education*, p. 8.
2. *Minimum school term required*—180 actual school days.
3. *Minimum attendance required*—Full term.
4. *Exemptions*—
- (a) Any child who is not in proper physical or mental condition to attend school.
 - (b) Child receiving instruction in the English language in public school subjects in approved, private, or parochial school for like period; or receiving instruction elsewhere equivalent to that given in the public school.
 - (c) Fourteen years of age and regularly and lawfully employed.
5. *Educational relief for children in poverty*—The schools of the incorporated orphan asylum societies, other than those in the City of New York, shall participate in the distribution of the State school funds, in the same manner and to the same extent, in proportion to the number of children educated therein, as the common schools in their respective cities or districts. "The schools of said societies shall be subject to the rules and regulations of the common schools in such cities and districts, but shall remain under the immediate management and direction of the said societies as heretofore." (*Art. 55, Education Law of New York.*)
6. *Age for admission*—5-21.
7. *Age for labor permits*—14-17 in districts of 5,000 population or more; 14-16 elsewhere.
8. *Minimum education required for labor permit*—Completion of eighth grade if child is 14 years of age; completion of sixth grade if child is 15 years of age. School attendance of 130 days between thirteenth and fourteenth birthdays, or in the 12-month period preceding application for permit, or in the 12-month period preceding graduation. (Certificate of physical fitness also required for labor permit.)
—*New York Education Law, 1927.*

NORTH CAROLINA

1. *Compulsory attendance age*—Between the ages of 7 and 14 (7 to 13 inclusive).
2. *Minimum school term required*—Six months.
3. *Minimum attendance required*—Full term.
4. *Exemptions*—
 - (a) Attendance at approved private school for like period is acceptable in lieu of public-school attendance. (This is not a statutory provision, but a State board ruling.)
 - (b) The principal, superintendent, or teacher in charge shall have the right to excuse any child from temporary attendance on account of sickness or distance of residence from school, or other unavoidable cause which does not constitute truancy as defined by the State board of education.
 - (c) "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 non-attendance due to immediate demands of the farm or the home in certain seasons of the year in the several sections of the State."
5. *Educational relief for children in poverty*—If affidavit shall be made by the parent or guardian of any child between 7 and 13 years, inclusive, that said child is not able to attend school by reason of necessity to work for the support of itself or family, then the attendance officer shall inquire into the matter and bring it to the attention of some court allowed to act as a juvenile court which shall proceed to find whether said child is unable to attend school for the reasons given. If the court shall find, after investigation, that for valid and sufficient cause the child is unable to attend school, then it shall find and state what help is needed for the family to enable the attendance law to be complied with; and shall transmit its findings to the county board of education. The county board of education shall in its discretion order aid to be given from the incidental expense funds of the county school budget to an extent not to exceed \$10 per month for such child during the continuance of the compulsory term; and shall require that said child attend school. The county board of education is authorized in making out the county budget to provide a sum to meet such needs of indigent children, as shall be ascertained by law. (*Consolidated Statutes, Vol. II, 1919, ch. 95.*)
6. *Age for admission*—6-21.
7. *Age for labor permit*—14-15, inclusive, boys, and girls, 12-13, inclusive, vacation permits for boys.
8. *Minimum education required for labor permit*—No educational requirements mentioned; but employment certificate is to be issued "under such conditions" as Child Welfare Commission may prescribe. The hours of labor are subject to the following education restrictions: Under fourth grade, 8 hours per day; above fourth grade, 10 hours per day (*Laws of 1927.*)
—*Public School Law of North Carolina, 1923.*

NORTH DAKOTA

1. *Compulsory attendance age*—7-17.
2. *Minimum school term required*—Seven months.
3. *Minimum attendance required*—Full term.
4. *Exemptions*—
 - (a) If child has already acquired the branches of learning taught in the public schools.
 - (b) Fifteen years of age and completed the eighth grade.
 - (c) Instruction for same length of time in private or parochial school approved by the county superintendent.
 - (d) If child is in such physical or mental condition as to render attendance inexpedient or impracticable.
 - (e) If child is actually necessary to the support of the family as determined by the State's attorney, subject to appeal.
 - (f) May be excused under certain conditions on account of distance from school.
 - (g) Any child 14 years of age and completed the eighth grade and lawfully employed.
5. *Educational relief for children in poverty*—Orphan children or children abandoned shall be cared for either in private homes or orphan asylums. Such children must be educated, if practicable. Poor children of the asylum who can not be bound out as apprentices shall be educated thereat. The superintendent shall superintend and direct the education of such poor children and send them to common school within the county.

All indentures of apprenticeships must contain an agreement on the part of the person to whom such child shall be bound that he will cause such child to be instructed to read and write and to be taught the general rules of arithmetic, or, in lieu thereof, that he will send such child to school three months of each year of the period of indenture; and that he will give him a new Bible at the expiration of his term of service.
6. *Age for admission*—6-21.
7. *Age for labor permit*—14-18.
8. *Minimum education required for labor permit*—Shall have completed eighth grade or attended school for nine years, excluding kindergarten.

OHIO

1. *Compulsory attendance age*—6-18.
2. *Minimum school term required*—Eight months.
3. *Minimum attendance required*—Full term. (Not less than 32 weeks per school year.)
4. *Exemptions*—
 - (a) Graduate of first-class high school.
 - (b) Receiving similar instruction for like period at home by person qualified to teach subjects taught in public school or in approved private or parochial school. Instructions elsewhere than in public school must be equivalent to that given to children of like age and advancement, and for equivalent number of hours as given in public school.
 - (c) "Upon satisfactory showing that the bodily or mental condition of the child does not permit of its attendance at school."
 - (d) Any minor 16 years of age and employed on age and schooling certificate. (Must continue in employment or attend school, unless high school graduate.) (See Part-Time Education, p. 8.)

4. Exemptions—Continued.

- (e) Local boards of education may by resolution change age limits to 7 to 18 years.
- (f) A child may not be required to attend high school more than 4 miles from his or her residence unless transportation is furnished. (*Attorney general's opinion.*)
5. *Educational relief for children in poverty*—Upon proof that a child is unable to attend school because absolutely required to work to support himself or help support others legally entitled to his services, the board of education shall furnish such child, free of charge, with textbooks and other personal necessities and medical care as may be necessary to enable child to attend school. - The expense incident to furnishing such relief must be paid from the contingent fund of the school district. (*School Laws of Ohio, 1922, sec. 7777.*)
6. *Age for admission*—6-21.
7. *Age for labor permit*—16-18.
8. *Minimum education required for labor permit*—Completion of seventh grade. —*School Laws of Ohio, 1922.*

OKLAHOMA

1. *Compulsory attendance age*—8-18.
2. *Minimum school term required*—Three months.
3. *Minimum attendance required*—Two-thirds of term.
4. *Exemptions*—
- (a) If prevented by mental or physical disability.
- (b) Any child 16 years of age or more and regularly and lawfully employed and having completed the eighth grade or equivalent. (See Part-Time Education, 8.)
- (c) Any child 16 years of age or more and having completed the full course of instruction provided by the public schools of the district where he resides.
- (d) Attendance at approved "private or other schools" for a like period.
5. *Educational relief for children in poverty*.—The county superintendent shall furnish upon recommendation of the district board of education the necessary books to child whose parents or guardians are unable to purchase the same. School districts containing a children's home or charitable institution are required to furnish school facilities to children in any children's home or charitable institution whose education is not wholly provided from funds provided for by such children's home or charitable institution within the said district. If any widowed mother shall make affidavit that the wages of her child or children under 16 years of age are necessary to the support of such widowed mother, the county superintendent shall furnish such aid as shall be deemed necessary to such children so long as they attend the public school in accordance with the attendance law. (*School Laws of Oklahoma, 1925, Arts. 6 A and 15.*)
6. *Age for admission*—6-21.
7. *Age for labor permit*—16-18.
8. *Minimum education required for labor permit*—Can read and write, or child shall have attended some school during the year preceding employment for time attendance is required under the law. —*School Law of Oklahoma, 1925.*

OREGON

1. *Compulsory attendance age*—9-15, inclusive.* (See Part-Time Education p. 8.)
2. *Minimum school term required*—160 days, exclusive of holidays.
3. *Minimum attendance required*—Full term.
4. *Exemptions*—
 - (a) Children who are "being taught for a like period of time in a private or parochial school such branches as are usually taught" in the public schools.
 - (b) Children who are receiving instruction for a like period of time by the parent or private teacher upon written permission of the county superintendent of schools in subjects usually taught in the public schools.
 - (c) Children who have already acquired "the ordinary branches of learning."
 - (d) Children who are "physically unable to attend school."
 - (e) Children under 10 years of age who reside more than $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles from school; and children over 10 years who reside more than 3 miles from public school, unless transportation is furnished.
 - (f) Fourteen years old, completed grammar grades and lawfully employed, and no part-time school provided.
 - (g) May be excused, on application of parents or guardian, for a period not to exceed 120 minutes per week "to attend week-day schools giving instruction in religion."
5. *Educational relief for children in poverty*—"When directed by vote of a district, the district board shall loan textbooks to indigent pupils; and, when not directed by a vote of the district so to do, may loan said books to indigent pupils upon the written report of the clerk that the parent or guardian of such children is unable to purchase such books." (*Ore. Law, sec. 5043.*)
6. *Age for admission*—6-21.
7. *Age for labor permit*—14-16.
8. *Minimum education required for labor board permit*—Can read and write simple sentences; is familiar with the fundamental operations of arithmetic to and including fractions; and attended school not less than 160 days during school year previous to arriving at the age of 14 years.

* The act authorizing the creation of parental schools in districts with 20,000 or more children of school age (*Acts of 1917, ch. 249*), by defining an habitual truant to be "A child between 7 and 16 years of age who willfully and habitually absents himself from school," apparently lowers this age from 9 to 7 years.

The part-time education act of 1919 requires that "all children between the ages of 16 and 18 years must be in school or legally employed." Therefore, where part-time schools are provided, the maximum compulsory age appears to be 18 years.

PENNSYLVANIA

1. *Compulsory attendance age*—8-16.
2. *Minimum school term required*—Eight months; schools in the first, second, and third class districts, 180 days.
3. *Minimum attendance required*—Full term; but board of school directors in any fourth-class district may reduce period to 70 per cent of school term for pupils 14 years of age or over.
4. *Exemptions*—
 - (a) Any child who is 14 or more and "has completed a course of study equivalent to six yearly grades of the public school" and is regularly employed and holds an employment certificate. (See Part-Time Education, p. 8.)
 - (b) Attended for like time in approved private school upon instruction equivalent to that given in public school. Instruction in the required subjects must be given in the English language.
 - (c) Received regular daily instruction given in the English language for like time by a properly qualified private tutor, if satisfactory to local superintendent.
 - (d) Children "on account of any mental, physical, or other urgent reasons," may be excused by board of school directors.
 - (e) No public school within 2 miles, by the nearest traveled road, unless free transportation is furnished.
 - (f) Any child 14 or more and engaged in farm work, or domestic service in a private home on permit issued by school board or designated school official. The State department requires that such child must have "completed a course of study equivalent to six yearly grades of the public schools."
5. *Educational relief for children in poverty*—Children between 8 and 16 years of age who are unable to attend school on account of lack of necessary clothing or food shall be promptly reported to any suitable relief agency operating in the district, or, if there is no such agency, they shall be reported to the proper directors or overseers of the poor for investigation and relief. (*School Law of Pennsylvania, 1925, sec. 1424.*)

Boards of education of districts containing an orphan asylum, home for the friendless, children's home, or other institution for the care or training of orphans or other children, shall permit any children of such institutions, though not legal residents of such districts, to attend the public schools in said district. Districts that furnish such school privileges may charge tuition as specified in the law. (*School Laws of Pennsylvania, 1925, sec. 1412.*)
6. *Age for admission*—6-21.
7. *Age for labor permit*—14-16.
8. *Minimum education required for labor permit*.—Completion of a course of study equivalent to six yearly grades of the public school. (See Part-Time Education, p. 8.)

—*School Law of Pennsylvania, 1925.*

RHODE ISLAND

1. *Compulsory attendance age*—7-16. (See Part-Time Education, p. 8.)
2. *Minimum school term required*—180 actual days.
3. *Minimum attendance required*—Full term.
4. *Exemptions*—
 - (a) Fifteen years of age and lawfully and regularly employed.
 - (b) Those excluded "by virtue of some general law or regulation."
 - (c) Any child whose physical or mental condition is such as to render attendance inexpedient or unpracticable.
 - (d) Attending private day school, or private instruction, approved by the school committee of the city or town.
5. *Educational relief for children in poverty*—The State Home and School, controlled by the State Public Welfare Commission, shall receive such children as may be declared vagrant, truant, neglected, or dependent on the public for support who are under 18 years of age and who are in a suitable condition of mind and body to be instructed and shall provide instruction for them, furnishing such officers and teachers as shall be necessary. If, in the discretion of the commission, the character, independence, and best interest of any dependent or neglected child can be better attained by placing such child in a "good family of the same religious belief as the parents of such child," the commission is authorized to do so, on condition that its education shall be provided for by such family either in public or suitable private school; and when such a course is desirable or necessary, said commission may pay such amount as may be agreed upon for the care and support of such child. (*General laws of Rhode Island, 1923, pars. 1670-74.*)
6. *Age for admission*—None stated.
7. *Age for labor permit*—15-16.
8. *Minimum education required for labor permit*—Completion of eighth grade or attendance at school eight years.

SOUTH CAROLINA

1. *Compulsory attendance age*—8-14.
2. *Minimum school term required*—Seven months; except in districts where school tax is less than 8 mills and monthly attendance is less than 15, in which case three months are required.
3. *Minimum attendance required*—80 days. (District may require attendance for full term.)
4. *Exemptions*—
 - (a) Any child attending an approved private or parochial school for like period.
 - (b) Any child who receives similar instruction for a like period from a competent tutor, subject to the approval of the county superintendent.
 - (c) Any "child whose physical, mental, or moral condition unfits it for attendance."
 - (d) For "providential cause or causes, or to such cause or causes as would seriously endanger the health of child." Attendance officer may in his discretion, grant excuses.
 - (e) "In case of a widowed mother or of a crippled father any child above 12 years of age whose labor may be necessary for the support, in whole or in part, of any person, may be excused."

4. Exemptions—Continued.

- (f) Any child living more than $2\frac{1}{2}$ miles (2 miles if under 12 years of age) from any public, private, or parochial school; provided, that any pupil living within 1 mile of any regular route of a school wagon may not claim exemption.
5. Educational relief for children in poverty—"The children of parents unable to purchase the necessary books for attendance upon a public school shall, upon the order of the county board of education, be furnished these books out of the public funds of their district. The county boards of education shall be the competent judges of such cases." (*School Law of South Carolina, 1924, par. 2750.*)
6. Age for admission—6-21.
7. Age for labor permit—14 (12-14 outside of school hours).
8. Minimum education required for labor permit—None stated.
- School Laws of South Carolina, 1924.*

SOUTH DAKOTA

1. Compulsory attendance age—8-17. (See Part-Time Education, p. 8.)
2. Minimum school term required—Eight months.
3. Minimum attendance required—Full term.
4. Exemptions—
- (a) Completion of eight grade or equivalent.
 - (b) Physical or mental condition such as to render attendance unsafe, impracticable, or harmful to himself or others.
 - (c) Serious illness in immediate family, making child's presence at home an actual necessity or his presence in school a menace to the health of other pupils.
 - (d) Attendance at an approved private school for a like period.
 - (e) Otherwise instructed by competent person for a like period in public-school branches; provided that such instruction be given entirely in the English language.
 - (f) Between April 1 and November 1, should there exist an extreme need for child's assistance at home, he may be excused from attendance for a time not to exceed 40 school days; provided that such child has completed the sixth grade or its equivalent.
 - (g) May be excused for one hour per week to attend religious instruction conducted by some church or churches.

All applications for excuse from school attendance must be in writing.

5. Educational relief for children in poverty—Every inmate of any asylum for the poor who is of school age shall attend the public schools the same as other children. (*South Dakota Revised Code, 1919, sec. 10059.*)
6. Age for admission—6-21.
7. Age for labor permit—14-16.
8. Minimum education required for labor permit—Read and write.

TENNESSEE

1. Compulsory attendance age—7-16.
2. Minimum school term required—Eight months.
3. Minimum attendance required—Full term.
4. Exemptions—
- (a) Completion of eighth grade and holds a certificate of promotion to high school.
 - (b) Mentally or physically incapacitated to attend school.

4. *Exemptions—Continued.*

- (c) Where school is more than 3 miles from child's residence, unless free transportation is provided.
- (d) Attendance for like period at approved private or parochial school.
- (e) Where parent or guardian is not able, through extreme destitution, to provide clothing for child to attend school.
- (f) Fourteen years old, literate and regularly and lawfully employed.*

5. *Educational relief for children in poverty*—The county or city board shall lend books free to children who are shown to be unable to procure the same. Said board shall also report to the proper commissioners of the poor or to any suitable relief agency, for investigation and relief, any child who is unable to attend school on account of lack of clothing or food. (*School Law, 1925, secs. 102-103.*)

6. *Age for admission*—6 or over.

7. *Age for labor permit*—14-16.

8. *Minimum education required for labor permit*—Not stated. (To read and write implied.)

—*School Laws of Tennessee, 1925.*

TEXAS

1. *Compulsory attendance age*—8-14.

2. *Minimum school term required*—Constitution requires that the legislature provide six months but this requirement has not been met by the legislature.

3. *Minimum attendance required*—100 days.

4. *Exemptions—*

(a) Attendance for a like period at approved private or parochial school which gives instruction in all subjects in the English language and which shall include in its course a study of good citizenship.

(b) Physically or mentally incapacitated.

(c) Where child lives more than 2½ miles by direct and traveled road from nearest public school and no free transportation provided.

(d) Twelve years old, completed seventh grade, and services necessary to support parent or others standing in parental relation to the child.

5. *Educational relief for children in poverty*—Children of compulsory school age committed to the State Home for Dependent and Neglected. Children are required to distribute their time between the school of letters and the industrial and domestic pursuits according to what is deemed best for them by the State board of control and the superintendent of said State home.

Whenever any child under 16 is brought before any juvenile court, upon petition of any person in the State, charged with being a dependent or neglected child, the court may if in the opinion of the judge the Home for Dependent and Neglected Children is the proper place for said child commit such child to said home during its minority. (*Art. 3256-7, Rev. Civil Stat. Texas, 1925.*)

6. *Age for admission*—7-21. (School trustees may admit pupils under or over scholastic age. Where kindergarten schools are provided, children may be admitted at the age of 5.)

7. *Age for labor permit*—12-14.

8. *Minimum education required for labor permit*—Completion of seventh grade.

—*Schools Laws, Texas, 1924.*

* Part-time school attendance required: Where part-time schools are provided, every person 14 to 18, to whom employment certificates have been issued, must attend such school 15 hours per week during weeks other public schools are maintained.

UTAH

1. *Compulsory attendance age*—8-18.¹⁰
2. *Minimum school term required*—Five months.
3. *Minimum attendance required*—20 weeks, 10 of which shall be consecutive; 30 weeks in first and second class cities, 10 of which must be consecutive; 30 weeks for part-time school students, and all between 16 and 18 years of age who have not been excused to enter employment.
4. *Exemptions*—
 - A. From full-time attendance:
 - (a) Where child receives instruction at home in required branches for same length of time as required to be taught in district school.
 - (b) Any child who "has already acquired the branches of learning taught in the district schools."
 - (c) Where physical or mental condition is such as to render attendance inexpedient or impracticable.
 - (d) Where no school is taught within 2½ miles of child's residence or employment by nearest road, unless free transportation is furnished.
 - (e) "That the services of such child are necessary to the support of a mother or an invalid father."
 - (f) Instruction for like period in approved private school.
 - B. From part-time attendance:

If any minor who has become 16 or who has completed the eighth grade is excused from full day-school attendance to enter employment, he must attend a part-time or continuation school at least 144 hours per year, unless exempted for following reasons: (1) Has already completed the work of a senior high school; (2) is taught at home the required number of hours; (3) Physically or mentally incompetent; (4) no school taught within 2½ miles of residence or employment, unless free transportation is furnished.
5. *Educational relief for children in poverty*—"Children under 16 years of age who, by reason of neglect, crime, drunkenness, or other vices of parents, or by reason of orphanage, are suffered to grow up without salutary parental control and education, or in circumstances encouraging them to lead idle and dissolute lives, may be committed to the proper parental school for a term not extending beyond the age of 16 years." (*Utah Statutes*, 4643.)
6. *Age for admission*—6-18.
7. *Age for labor permit*—14-18, if eighth-grade graduate, otherwise 16 to 18.
8. *Minimum education required for labor permit*—Completion of eighth grade for child under 16 years.

—*Utah School Law, 1925.*

¹⁰ Evening school attendance requires all aliens 16 to 35 who do not possess such ability to speak, read, and write English as is required for completion of fifth grade to attend public evening school for at least 4 hours a week, 200 hours per year, during period of school year, or attend a regular day school or part-time school unless physically or mentally disqualified or no school within 2½ miles from residence. The State board of education may require school districts to establish evening schools for the purpose.

VERMONT

1. *Compulsory attendance age—8-16.*¹¹
2. *Minimum school term required—34 weeks for elementary schools; 36 weeks for high schools.*
3. *Minimum attendance required—Full term, if session is more than 170 days; local school superintendent may excuse any child from attending more than that period.*
4. *Exemptions—*
 - (a) Any child who has completed the elementary school course or the rural school course and the first two years of junior or senior high school course:
 - (b) If 15 years old, having completed the work required in the rural school course, and whose "services are needed for the support of those dependent upon him, or for any other sufficient reason," may be excused by superintendent.
 - (c) Mentally or physically unable to attend school.
 - (d) Any child who "is otherwise being furnished with the same education."
 - (e) May be excused for a definite time not to exceed 10 consecutive school days in cases of "emergencies or for absence from town."
5. *Educational relief for children in poverty—If any child between 8 and 16 is under the control of a person unable to furnish such child with suitable clothing for school attendance, the local superintendent shall notify the "overseer of the poor of the town in which such person resides, who shall at once provide suitable clothing" for such child. (1261 Vermont Statutes.)*
6. *Age for admission—6-18. However, "a person who has become 18 years of age shall not be deprived of public school advantages on account of age."*
7. *Age for labor permit—14-16.*
8. *Minimum education required for labor permit—Completion of elementary school course. (May not be employed in hotel, billiard or pool room, or bowling alley, or in delivering messages, or in railroading or manufacturing, except during vacation or before and after school, unless having completed elementary school and the first two years of junior high school course.)*

VIRGINIA

1. *Compulsory attendance age—7-15.*¹²
2. *Minimum school term required—Seven months.*
3. *Minimum attendance required—Full term.*
4. *Exemptions—*
 - (a) Any child who has completed the elementary school course and who is regularly and lawfully employed.
 - (b) Any "child who lives more than 2 miles by the nearest traveled road from a public school, unless public transportation is provided within 1 mile of walking distance from the place where such child lives."
 - (c) Child receiving instruction for a like period in a "private denominational or parochial school, or in a home by a tutor or other teacher."

¹¹ "A person having the control of a child over 16 years of age who allows such child to become enrolled in a public school shall cause such child to attend such school continuously for the full number of the school days of the term in which he is so enrolled" unless mentally or physically disabled or otherwise lawfully excused.

¹² Except for any county which decides to make it 8-16. The age was 8-14 until 1923

4. *Exemptions—Continued.*

(d) "Any child who is physically or mentally incapacitated for the work of the school."

(e) In the discretion of the local school board, nonattendance at school "on account of necessary work during certain seasons of the year may be considered lawful and valid excuse" for temporary non-attendance.

5. *Educational relief for children in poverty*—"It shall be the duty of the school board to * * * provide adequate facilities and appurtenances, including necessary textbooks, for indigent children * * * to decide what children wishing to enter the school of the district should by reason of the poverty of their parents or guardians receive textbooks free of charge, and to provide for supplying them accordingly." (*School Law, 1923.*) The local school board may, in any case, in its discretion, furnish any child whose parents are shown to be unable to provide necessary clothing in order that the child may attend school, with the necessary clothes, and when clothes are furnished, such child must attend school. (*Virginia Code, par. 722e.*)

6. *Age for admission*—6-20.

7. *Age for labor permit*—14-16.

8. *Minimum education required for labor permit*—None mentioned.

—*Virginia School Laws, 1923.*

WASHINGTON

1. *Compulsory attendance age*—8-16¹³ (8-18 part-time school law.¹⁴)

2. *Minimum school term required*—Six months; eight months in first-class districts.

3. *Minimum attendance required*—Full term.

4. *Exemptions—*

(a) Attendance at an approved private or parochial school for the same length of time.

(b) Any child whose physical or mental condition is such as to render child unable to attend.

(c) Any child who "has already attained a reasonable proficiency in the branches required by law to be taught in the first eight grades of the public schools."

(d) For "some other sufficient reason."

(e) Fifteen years of age and "the needs of the family or the welfare of such minor require" that he be regularly employed.

(f) Fourteen years of age, completed the eighth grade, or in the judgment of the superintendent can not profitably pursue further regular school work, may be excused to enter employment.

(g) "This office [attorney general's] has held that that section vests in the county superintendent power to excuse a child for nonattendance on account of extraordinary conditions. It may be that the

¹³ Whenever the Government of the United States or the State of Washington shall provide a Government school furnishing free tuition, lodging, food, and clothing to the pupils therein, the compulsory attendance age is from 5 to 18. This age does not apply to pupils residing more than 10 miles from such school, unless free transportation is provided.

¹⁴ Part-time school attendance required. All minors residing or employed in school districts in which part-time schools are provided shall attend full or part-time school until 18 years of age unless they are graduates from a four-year high school or its equivalent or have been lawfully excused. Districts are permitted, not required, to maintain part-time schools.

4. *Exemptions*—Continued.

county superintendent would have the right to excuse children who live where there are no transportation facilities and the child is unable to walk the distance. However, the law itself makes no exception for distances, the lack of ability of a child to walk to the schoolhouse, or the lack of means of transportation."

5. *Educational relief for children in poverty*—When any child under 18 shall be found delinquent or dependent, the court may, at any time, by order, commit the child to some suitable institution, or association, or to the care of some reputable citizen, or to some training or industrial school willing to receive it. (*Code of Public Instruction, 1923, sec. 386*)

Any benevolent or charitable society having under its control orphan, or homeless, or neglected children is authorized (not required) to provide for the education of such children. (*Comp. Stat. Wash., 1922, sec. 1700*)

6. *Age for admission*—6-21; 5-24 in certain districts.7. *Age for labor permit*—14-18.¹³8. *Minimum education required for labor permit*—Completion of eighth grade if under 15 years of age; no special requirement if 15 years of age.

—*Washington, 1923, Code of Public Instruction.*

WEST VIRGINIA

1. *Compulsory attendance age*—7-16.¹⁴2. *Minimum school term required*—Eight months.3. *Minimum attendance required*—Full term.4. *Exemptions*—

(a) Instruction for equal time "in a private, parochial, or other school approved by the district board of education."

(b) Instruction for equal time "in the home of such child or children or elsewhere by a person or persons" judged by the district board of education to be qualified to give the instruction required.

(c) "Physical or mental incapacity for school attendance and the performance of school work."

(d) "Death or serious illness in the immediate family of the pupil."

(e) "Extreme destitution of parents" or guardian. (If destitution is relieved by public or private means, exemption is not allowed.)

(f) "Conditions rendering school attendance impossible or rendering it hazardous to the pupil's life, health, or safety."

(g) Residence more than 2 miles from school by shortest practicable road or path, unless free transportation is provided.

(h) For "observance of regular church ordinances."

(i) "Other causes that are accepted as valid by the county superintendent" or by the district.

¹³ Whenever the Government of the United States or the State of Washington shall provide a Government school furnishing free tuition, lodging, food, and clothing to the pupils therein, the compulsory attendance age is from 5 to 18. This age does not apply to pupils residing more than 10 miles from such school, unless free transportation is provided.

¹⁴ Part-time school attendance required: Where part-time schools are provided, every minor between 14 and 16 who is not in regular attendance at a public, private, or parochial school or who is regularly and lawfully employed, shall attend for 144 hours during the year a part-time school in district in which such minor resides or is employed, unless he has completed the eighth grade, or is exempted for any of the reasons mentioned under Item 4.

The board of education of any city with more than 10,000 population, and of any city, town, or subdistrict where there are 50 or more minors 14 to 16 not in regular attendance upon approved instruction, must provide part-time schools or classes.

4. Exemptions—Continued.

- (j) Fourteen years old and engaged in regular employment for at least 6 hours per day or excused by local superintendent to enter employment at home.¹⁴
- (k) Fourteen years of age, completed the eighth grade, no junior or senior high school within 2 miles and no free transportation furnished.
5. Educational relief for children in poverty—"The county court of any county or counties that have a place of reception for the poor shall have the power, at their discretion, and at the expense of the county, to provide a suitable room or building, books, stationery, and employ a suitable teacher, to educate the children at the place of reception for the poor, and the school shall be under the supervision of the county superintendent the same as the free schools of the county." (Ch. 46, sec. 4a, W. Va. Code, 1923.)
- One of the conditions upon which a State pension or relief may be given to dependent mothers is the presentation of a satisfactory report by the teacher in the district school stating that the children of the recipient of this relief are attending school, provided they are of proper age and physically able to do so. (Ch. 46B, sec. 11, W. Va. Code, 1923.)
6. Age for admission—8-21.
7. Age for labor permits—14-16.
8. Minimum education required for labor permit—Completion of sixth grade.
—School Law of West Virginia, 1925.

WISCONSIN

1. Compulsory attendance age—7-16.¹⁵
2. Minimum school term required—Eight months.
3. Minimum attendance required—Full term in cities of first class; 8 months in all other cities; 6 months in towns and villages; 60 days for any child between 9 and 14 who lives between 2 and 3 miles from school, and no free transportation provided.
4. Exemptions—
- Completion of the eighth grade or its equivalent.
 - Attendance during the required period in approved parochial or private school.
 - Equivalent instruction during the required period elsewhere than at school, by a teacher selected by the person having control of such child.
 - "Any child not in proper physical or mental condition to attend school."

¹⁴ Part-time school attendance required: Where part-time schools are provided, every minor between 14 and 16 who is not in regular attendance at a public, private, or parochial school or who is regularly and lawfully employed, shall attend for 144 hours during the year in a part-time school in district in which such minor resides or is employed, unless he has completed the eighth grade, or is exempted for any of the reasons mentioned under item 4.

The board of education of any city with more than 10,000 population, and of any city, town, or subdistrict where there are 50 or more minors 14 to 16 not in regular attendance upon approved instruction, must provide part-time schools or classes.

¹⁵ Part-time attendance required: Any person between 14 and 18 who has completed the period of compulsory full-time education and who has not completed the equivalent of 4 years of school work above the elementary grades, must either attend a public, private, or parochial school, at least half-time, or attend the vocational school half-time in the day time until 16 and thereafter 8 hours per week for 8 months a year until 18; provided such schools are provided within 2 miles and said persons are physically able to attend.

Where evening schools are provided within 2 miles, minors over 17 who are illiterate and employed must attend such school or a public vocational school 4 hours per week until able to read and write simple sentences.

4. *Exemptions—Continued.*

(e) Children who live in country districts more than 2 miles by the nearest traveled road from the schoolhouse, unless free transportation is offered; provided, that children between 9 and 14 who live between 2 and 3 miles from school must attend 60 days.

(f) Fourteen years of age and regularly and lawfully employed.

5. *Educational relief for children in poverty*—For every person of lawful school age maintained by the county as a public charge, the county board shall for each year allow to the district in which such person may attend school an amount for each person so attending equal to the amount expended in that year for each pupil in such district; and in case such person be maintained by any town, such town board shall allow a like amount to such district. (*Wisconsin School Code, 1923, 40, 29.*)

6. *Age for admission*—4-20; school boards may admit to school free of tuition persons 20 to 30 years of age.

7. *Age for labor permit*—14-16 (14 to 17 in child labor laws.)

8. *Minimum education required for labor permit*—Completed the eighth grade or its equivalent, or attended school for 9 years, exclusive of kindergarten.

—*Wisconsin School Code, 1923.*

WYOMING

1. *Compulsory attendance age*—7-16.

2. *Minimum school term required*—Three months; eight months to receive share of Government royalty funds.

3. *Minimum attendance required*—Full term.

4. *Exemptions—*

(a) Attendance for a like period at a private or parochial school.

(b) Any child who has "completed the work of the eighth grade."

(c) Mentally incapable of doing the work of the school.

(d) "Invalids or others to whom the schoolroom might be injurious" may be excused by district board.

(e) Pupils to whom attendance might work a hardship may be excused by district board.

(f) "Pupils who for legal reasons have been excluded from the regular schools and no provisions made for the schooling of such children."—(*Session Laws of 1923, ch. 42.*)

5. *Educational relief for children in poverty*—None mentioned.

6. *Age for admission*—6-21.

7. *Age for labor permit*—14-16.

8. *Minimum education required for labor permit*—Completion of first eight years of the public school or the equivalent.

—*School Law of 1921; 1923 Session Laws.*