

C.S.C COMPULSORY ATTENDANCE LAW

Section 59-65-10A Responsibility of parent or guardian:

All parents or guardians shall cause their children or wards to attend regularly a public or private school or kindergarten of this state which has been approved by the State Board of Education or a member of the South Carolina Independent Schools' Association or some similar organization, or a parochial, denominational, or church related school, or other programs which have been approved by the State Board of Education from the school year in which the child or ward is five years of age on or before September 1st until the child or ward attains his seventeenth birthday or graduates from high school. A parent or guardian whose child or ward is not six years of age on or before the first day of September of a particular school year may elect for their child or ward not to attend kindergarten. For this purpose, the parent or guardian shall sign a written document making the election with the governing body of the school district in which the parent or guardian resides. The form of this written document must be prescribed by regulation of the school district in which the parent resides. The form of this written document must be prescribed by regulation of the Department of Education. Upon the written election being executed, that child or ward may not be required to attend kindergarten.

Section 59-65-20 Penalty for failure to enroll or cause a child to attend school

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

SPARTANBURG TRUANCY COURT

South Carolina law states that 5 Unlawful absences (a date NOT excused by a dr. note or a parent note) constitute truancy from school for which a parent conference and development of an intervention plan are required. Excessive tardies or excessive sign-outs from school could result in the necessity of an intervention plan and/or referral to the Spartanburg Truancy Court.