

EXEMPTIONS FROM SCHOOL ATTENDANCE

GED Program: Students aged 16 years of age or older will be exempt from compulsory attendance provided they are enrolled in and participating in a school-based or school contracted Graduate Equivalency Degree (GED) program. The student must present written permission from the student's parent or guardian and meet one or more of the following five conditions:

1. Verification from a school administrator that the child will not graduate with the child's cohort class because of credit deficiency;
2. Authorization from a court services officer;
3. A court order requiring the child to enter the program;
4. Verification that the child is under the direction of the Department of Corrections; or
5. Verification that the child is enrolled in Job Corps as authorized by Title I-C of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998, as amended January 1, 2009.

RELIGIOUS EXEMPTION AFTER EIGHTH GRADE: A child of compulsory age who has successfully completed the first eight grades is excused from compulsory school attendance if:

1. The child or the parents of the child are members of a recognized church or religious denomination that objects to the regular public high school education; and
2. The recognized church or religious denomination either individually or in cooperation with another recognized church or religious denomination provides a regularly supervised program of instruction in which each child participates in learning activities appropriate to the adult occupation that the child is likely to assume in later years.

STUDENT EXCUSED BECAUSE OF ILLNESS IN FAMILY: The School Board may excuse a child from school attendance because of serious illness in his or her immediate family, making his or her presence at home an actual necessity, or his or her presence in school a menace to the health of other students. The School Board may require the submission of medical evidence as a condition of granting an excuse pursuant to this section.

STUDENT EXCUSED TO ATTEND STATE OR NATIONALLY RECOGNIZED YOUTH EVENTS, AND WORK AS PRECINCT ELECTION OFFICIAL: A student is eligible to be counted for school attendance up to five (5) days in a school term if an excuse from actual school attendance is requested by a parent or guardian for the purpose of attending events of state or nationally recognized youth programs of educational value or for the purpose of working as a precinct election official if the students is at least eighteen (18) years old.

LEGAL REFS.: SDCL 13-27-1.1; 13-27-3; 13-27-6; 13-27-6.1; 13-27-7; 13-27-8; 13-27-9

[August 1992] {Reviewed March 1996} {Reviewed June 2004} [March 2014] [November 2020] [October 2021] {Reviewed March 2024}