

*Existing policy with modification base on P.A. 19-179.*

## **Students**

### **Ages of Attendance**

In accordance with Connecticut General Statute 10-186, the Board of Education shall provide education for all persons five years of age and older, having attained age five on or before the first day of January of any school year, and under twenty-one years of age who is not a graduate of a high school or vocational school, except as provided in Connecticut General Statutes 10-233c and 10-233d. Additionally, according to Connecticut General Statute 10-76d (b2), special education will be provided for children who have attained the age of three and who have been identified as being in need of special education, and whose educational potential will be irreparably diminished without special education.

Parents and those who have the control of children five years of age and over and under eighteen years of age, are obligated by Connecticut law to require their children to attend public day school or its equivalent in the district in which such child resides, unless such child is a high school graduate or the parent or person having control of such child is able to show that the child is elsewhere receiving equivalent instruction in the studies taught in the public schools. ~~Effective July 1, 2001,~~ The parent or person having control of a child ~~sixteen or~~ seventeen years of age must consent to such child's withdrawal from school. The parent or person shall exercise this option by personally appearing at the school district office to sign a withdrawal form. Such form shall include an attestation from a guidance counselor, school counselor or school administrator that this district ~~shall~~ has provided the parent or person with information on the educational opportunities available in the school system and in the community.

The parent or person having control of a child five years of age shall have the option of not sending the child to school until the child is six years of age. The parent or person having control of a child six years of age shall have the option of not sending the child to school until the child is seven years of age.

The parent or person having control shall exercise such option by personally appearing at the school district office and signing an option form. The district shall provide the parent or person with information on the educational opportunities available in the school system.

The above requirements are not to serve as barriers to immediate enrollment of students, designated as homeless or foster children as required by the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) and the McKinney-Vento Act as amended by the ESSA. The District shall work with the local child welfare agency, the school last attended, or other relevant agencies to obtain necessary enrollment documentation.

The parent/guardian of any child who is denied admission to school, or an emancipated minor, a student eighteen years of age or older, a homeless child or youth, or an unaccompanied youth who is denied schooling, or an agent or officer charged with the enforcement of attendance laws may request, in writing, a hearing by the Board of Education. Such hearing may be conducted by the entire Board of Education, or by a subcommittee of three Board members, or by a local impartial hearing Board of one or more persons not members of the Board of Education.

## Students

### Ages of Attendance (continued)

A child who has attained the age of ~~sixteen or~~ seventeen and who has voluntarily terminated enrollment with parental consent in the district's schools and subsequently seeks readmission may be denied readmission for up to ninety school days from the date of such termination unless such child seeks readmission to the District not later than ten (10) school days after such termination in which case the Board shall provide school accommodations to such child not later than three school days after such child seeks readmission.

A child who has attained the age of nineteen or older may be placed in an alternative school program or other suitable educational program if he/she cannot acquire a sufficient number of credits for graduation by age twenty-one.

(cf. 5111 - Admission/Placement)

(cf. 5112 - Ages of Attendance)

(cf. 6146 - Graduation Requirements)

Legal Reference: Connecticut General Statutes  
4-176e to 4-180a Agency hearings.  
4-181a Contested cases. Reconsideration. Modifications.  
10-15 Towns to maintain schools  
10-15c Discrimination in public schools prohibited. School attendance by five-year-olds  
10-76a - 10-76g re special education  
10-184 Duties of parents (re mandatory schooling for children ages five to sixteen, inclusive) as amended by PA-98-243, and PA 00-157  
10-186 Duties of local and regional boards of education re school attendance. Hearings. (~~Amended by PA 96-26 An Act Concerning Graduation Requirements and Readmission and Placement of Older Students~~) (as amended by P.A. 19-179)  
P.A. 19-179 An Act Concerning Homeless Students' Access to Education.  
Appeals to State Board. Establishment of hearing board  
10-233a - 10-233f Inclusive; re: suspend, expel, removal of pupils  
10-233c Suspension of pupils  
10-233d Expulsion of pupils  
State Board of Education Regulations  
10-76a-1 General definitions (c) (d) (q) (t)

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NEW FAIRFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS

New Fairfield, Connecticut