

## Compulsory School Attendance Law

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### Attendance Requirements

State law and school board policy require that elementary students (K – 8th) be present a minimum of 167 days per year. Secondary students (grades 9 – 12) are required to be present a minimum of 83-85 days per semester. (LA Bulletin 741)

### Penalties

Section 221 of Title 17 of the LA Revised Statutes states that the responsibility of a child's school attendance is placed with the child's parent or legal guardian. This responsibility includes awakening the child in sufficient time each morning and ensuring that the child, in fact, arrives at school at the appointed time.

Any parent, guardian, or tutor found to be in violation of the compulsory school attendance law may be fined not more than two hundred-fifty dollars (\$250.00) and/or sentenced to thirty (30) days in jail or both. If the child is chronically absent from school, parents and/or child may be referred to **the District Attorney's office.**