

TITLE: PART-TIME ENROLLMENT

There may be compelling circumstances under which students may attend school for fewer than four full years and/or may be scheduled for courses for less than the full instructional day. The Superintendent may approve attendance for fewer than four full years and/or courses for less than the full instructional day should any of the following compelling circumstances exist:

1. Physical or mental incapacity. Physical or mental incapacity consists of incapacity for school attendance and the performance of schoolwork. In all cases of prolonged absence from school due to incapacity of the child to attend, the written statement of a licensed physician or authorized school nurse is required. Incapacity shall be narrowly defined and, in any case, this policy does not allow for the exclusion of the mentally, physically, emotionally or behaviorally disabled child otherwise entitled to a free appropriate education.
2. Hazardous conditions. Hazardous conditions rendering school attendance impossible or hazardous to the life, health or safety of the child shall be considered a compelling circumstance.
3. Illness in the immediate family. A serious illness or death in the immediate family of the child may be regarded as a compelling circumstance.
4. Destitution. A condition of extreme destitution in the home may be regarded as a compelling circumstance upon the written recommendation of the county attendance director to the county Superintendent following careful investigation of the case. A copy of the report confirming the condition and school exemption shall be placed with the county director of public assistance. Every reasonable effort may properly be taken on the part of both school and public assistance authorities for the relief of home conditions officially recognized as being so destitute as to deprive children of the privilege of school attendance. A compelling circumstance shall cease to exist when the destitution is relieved through public or private means.
5. Religious ordinance. The observances of regular church ordinances may constitute a compelling circumstance. The Board may determine the existence of a compelling circumstance for religious instruction upon written request of the person having legal or actual charge of a child or children. Prior to consideration by the Board, the Superintendent shall investigate and determine the legitimacy of the church ordinances cited as a basis for the request.
6. Exemption from compulsory attendance requirements. Any legal exemption from compulsory school attendance not expressly identified by this policy may constitute a compelling circumstance.

7. It is expected that the county attendance director will ascertain the facts in all cases of asserted compelling circumstances about which information is inadequate and report the facts to the county Superintendent.

8. Review Schedule. This policy shall be reviewed in accordance with the Policy Review Schedule published by the Superintendent.

Legal Authority: West Virginia Board of Education Policy 2510
West Virginia Code §18-8-1 et seq.

Board Adoption: July 21, 2014