



School Finance

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To: Superintendents, High School Principals and Counselors
From: Dale M. Dennis, Deputy Commissioner of Education
Craig Neuenswander, Director, School Finance
Subj: **Compulsory Attendance Requirements for a child 16 or 17 years of age**

**Please forward this information
to high school building
PRINCIPALS AND COUNSELORS**

We have received several calls from high school principals and counselors concerning procedures to follow when a student drops out of school prior to age 18. On pages 4 and 5 are sample forms to be used during the final counseling session. According to K.S.A. 72-1111 (page 2) if a child is 16 or 17 years of age, the child shall be exempt from the compulsory attendance requirements of this section if:

- 1) the child is regularly enrolled in a program recognized by the local board of education as an approved alternative educational program, or
- 2) the child and the parent or person acting as parent attend a final counseling session conducted by the school during which a disclaimer to encourage the child to remain in school or to pursue educational alternatives is presented to and signed by the child and the parent or person acting as parent. The disclaimer shall include information regarding the academic skills that the child has not yet achieved, the difference in future earning power between a high school graduate and a high school dropout, and a listing of educational alternatives that are available for the child.

Please feel free to do your own research to attain lifetime earnings figures. The following analysis was based on data from the Bureau of Labor Statistics, 2010, Bureau of the Census. <http://stats.bls.gov/emp/emptab7.htm>. Data below are annual averages for persons 25 and over, and are for full-time wage and salary workers. This information may be used in the final counseling session.

<u>Level of education completed</u>	(2006 Census) <u>Lifetime Earnings</u>	<u>Median Weekly Earnings in 2010</u>	<u>Unemployment Rate in 2010 (%)</u>
Less than a high school diploma	\$ 941,000	\$ 444	14.9 %
High school graduate	1,266,000	626	10.3
Some college, no degree	1,518,000	712	9.2
Associate degree	1,620,000	767	7.0
Bachelor's degree	2,284,000	1,038	5.4
Master's degree	2,402,000	1,272	4.0
Professional degree	3,073,000	1,610	2.4
Doctoral degree	3,707,000	1,550	1.9

Academic skills a student may not have achieved

Reading	Knowing how to learn	Being a team member	Self-management
Writing	Using computer to	Being able to work with	Self-esteem
Arithmetic/Mathematics	process information	cultural diversity	Sociability
Listening	Responsibility	Evaluating information	Thinking Skills
Speaking	Problem solving	Interpreting information	Decision-making
Leadership			

K.S.A. 72-1111. Compulsory school attendance;

exemptions. (a) Subject to the other provisions of this section, every parent or person acting as parent in the state of Kansas, who has control over or charge of any child who has reached the age of seven years and is under the age of 18 years and has not attained a high school diploma or a general educational development (GED) credential, shall require such child to be regularly enrolled in and attend continuously each school year (1) a public school for the duration of the school term provided for in K.S.A. 72-1106, and amendments thereto, or (2) a private, denominational or parochial school taught by a competent instructor for a period of time which is substantially equivalent to the period of time public school is maintained in the school district in which the private, denominational or parochial school is located. If the child is 16 or 17 years of age, the parent or person acting as parent, by written consent, or the court, pursuant to a court order, may allow the child to be exempt from the compulsory attendance requirements of this section.

(b) If the child is 16 or 17 years of age, the child shall be exempt from the compulsory attendance requirements of this section if (1) the child is regularly enrolled in and attending a program recognized by the local board of education as an approved alternative educational program, or (2) the child and the parent or person acting as parent attend a final counseling session conducted by the school during which a disclaimer to encourage the child to remain in school or to pursue educational alternatives is presented to and signed by the child and the parent or person acting as parent. The disclaimer shall include information regarding the academic skills that the child has not yet achieved, the difference in future earning power between a high school graduate and a high school drop out, and a listing of educational alternatives that are available for the child; or (3) the child is regularly enrolled in a school as required by subsection (a) and is concurrently enrolled in a postsecondary educational institution, as defined by K.S.A. 74-3201b, and amendments thereto. The provisions of this clause (3) shall be applicable to children from and after July 1, 1997 and shall relate back to such date.

(c) Any child who is under the age of seven years, but who is enrolled in school, is subject to the compulsory attendance requirements of this section. Any such child may be withdrawn from enrollment in school at any time by a parent or person acting as parent of the child and thereupon the child shall be exempt from the compulsory attendance requirements of this section until the child reaches the age of seven years or is re-enrolled in school.

(d) Any child who is determined to be an exceptional child, except for an exceptional child who is determined to be a gifted child, under the provisions of the special education for exceptional children act is subject to the compulsory attendance requirements of such act and is exempt from the compulsory attendance requirements of this section.

(e) No child attending public school in this state shall be required to participate in any activity which is contrary to the religious teachings of the child if a written statement signed by one of the parents or a person acting as parent of the child is filed with the proper authorities of the school attended requesting that the child not be required to participate in such activities and stating the reason for the request.

(f) When a recognized church or religious denomination that objects to a regular public high school education provides, offers and teaches, either individually or in cooperation with another recognized church or religious denomination, a regularly supervised program of instruction, which is approved by the state board of education, for children of compulsory school attendance age who have successfully completed the eighth grade, participation in such a program of instruction by any such children whose parents or persons acting as parents are members of the

sponsoring church or religious denomination shall be regarded as acceptable school attendance within the meaning of this act.

Approval of such programs shall be granted by the state board of education, for two-year periods, upon application from recognized churches and religious denominations, under the following conditions:

(1) Each participating child shall be engaged, during each day on which attendance is legally required in the public schools in the school district in which the child resides, in at least five hours of learning activities appropriate to the adult occupation that the child is likely to assume in later years;

(2) acceptable learning activities, for the purposes of this subsection, shall include parent (or person acting as parent) supervised projects in agriculture and homemaking, work-study programs in cooperation with local business and industry, and correspondence courses from schools accredited by the national home study council, recognized by the United States office of education as the competent accrediting agency for private home study schools;

(3) at least 15 hours per week of classroom work under the supervision of an instructor shall be provided, at which time students shall be required to file written reports of the learning activities they have pursued since the time of the last class meeting, indicating the length of time spent on each one, and the instructor shall examine and evaluate such reports, approve plans for further learning activities, and provide necessary assignments and instruction;

(4) regular attendance reports shall be filed as required by law, and students shall be reported as absent for each school day on which they have not completed the prescribed minimum of five hours of learning activities;

(5) the instructor shall keep complete records concerning instruction provided, assignments made, and work pursued by the students, and these records shall be filed on the first day of each month with the state board of education and the board of education of the school district in which the child resides;

(6) the instructor shall be capable of performing competently the functions entrusted thereto;

(7) in applying for approval under this subsection a recognized church or religious denomination shall certify its objection to a regular public high school education and shall specify, in such detail as the state board of education may reasonably require, the program of instruction that it intends to provide and no such program shall be approved unless it fully complies with standards therefor which shall be specified by the state board of education;

(8) if the sponsors of an instructional program approved under this subsection fail to comply at any time with the provisions of this subsection, the state board of education shall rescind, after a written warning has been served and a period of three weeks allowed for compliance, approval of the programs, even though the two-year approval period has not elapsed, and thereupon children attending such program shall be admitted to a high school of the school district.

(g) As used in this section:

(1) "Parent" and "person acting as parent" have the meanings respectively ascribed thereto in K.S.A. 72-1046, and amendments thereto.

(2) "Regularly enrolled" means enrolled in five or more hours of instruction each school day. For the purposes of subsection (b) (3), hours of instruction received at a postsecondary educational institution shall be counted.

History: L. 1874, ch. 123, § 1; L. 1903, ch. 423, § 1; L. 1919, ch. 272, § 1; L. 1923, ch. 182, § 1; R.S. 1923, 72-4801; L. 1965, ch. 409, § 1; L. 1968, ch. 356, § 1; L. 1969, ch. 316, § 1; L. 1976, ch. 310, § 1; L. 1980, ch. 217, § 3; L. 1984, ch. 263, § 1; L. 1996, ch. 229, § 121; L. 1997, ch. 157, § 1; Revived and Amend., L. 2004, ch. 185, § 1; June 10.

Facts about Education, Earnings, and Occupations

College graduates age 25 and over earn nearly twice as much as workers who stopped with a high school diploma.

College graduates have experienced growth in real (inflation-adjusted) earnings since 1979. In contrast, high school dropouts have seen their real earnings decline.

From 1979 to 2000, the earnings of college-educated women grew nearly twice as fast as the earnings of men, but these women still earn less than men.

The unemployment rate for workers who dropped out of high school is nearly four times the rate for college graduates.

Job Training Options

Short-term on-the-job training (OJT): Workers develop the skills needed after a short demonstration or up to 1 month of on-the-job experience or instruction.

Moderate-term on-the-job training: Workers develop the skills needed after 1 to 12 months of combined on-the-job experience and informal training.

Long-term on-the-job training: Jobs require more than 12 months of on-the-job training or combined work experience and classroom instruction.

Postsecondary vocational training: Jobs require completion of vocational school training and may require passing an examination after completing the training.

Associate degree: Completion of the degree program requires at least 2 years of full-time academic work.

Occupations by earnings and training requirements		
Occupation	Median annual earnings, 1998	Education, training, category
Air traffic controllers	\$64,880	Long-term on-the-job-training
Elevator installers & repairers	47,860	Long-term on-the-job-training
Dental hygienists	45,890	Associate degree
Electrical powerline installers	42,600	Long-term on-the-job-training
Registered nurses	40,690	Associate degree
Aircraft mechanics	38,060	Post-secondary vocational training
Computer support specialists	37,120	Associate degree
Electrical & electronic tech.	35,970	Associate degree
Operating engineers	35,260	Moderate on-the-job-training
Postal mail carriers	34,840	Short-term on-the-job-training

Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics.

COMPULSORY ATTENDANCE EXEMPTION FORM

Pursuant to K.S.A. 72-1111, as amended, _____,
name of child

a child who is 16 or 17 years of age, is exempt from the compulsory attendance requirements of the State of Kansas for the reasons listed below (check appropriate reasons).

- 1. The child is regularly enrolled in an alternative education program approved by the Board of Education of USD No. _____.
- 2. The child is exempt pursuant to a court order which is attached to this form.
- 3. The child and _____, the parent or person acting as a parent, have attended a final counseling session conducted by USD No. _____ and have signed a disclaimer, which is attached to this form.

Signed _____
School Official

Typed or printed name

Title

Date

COMPULSORY SCHOOL ATTENDANCE DISCLAIMER

Pursuant to K.S.A. 72-1111, as amended, Unified School District No. _____ encourages _____ to remain in school **or**
name of child
pursue an educational alternative.

The academic skills listed below have not been achieved by the child:

- | | |
|----|-----|
| 1. | 6. |
| 2. | 7. |
| 3. | 8. |
| 4. | 9. |
| 5. | 10. |

The future earning power of a high school graduate is \$ _____ over his/her lifetime. The future earning power of a high school dropout is \$ _____ over his/her lifetime. The difference is \$ _____ over a lifetime.

The child, _____, is encouraged to attend one of the alternative education programs approved by the Board of Education of Unified School District No. _____ and listed below:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

We, the undersigned, acknowledge that we attended the final counseling session conducted by USD No. _____ in which the above information was presented to us.

Signature of child

Signature of parent or
person acting as parent

Date

Date