

Compulsory School Age Requirements

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April 2013

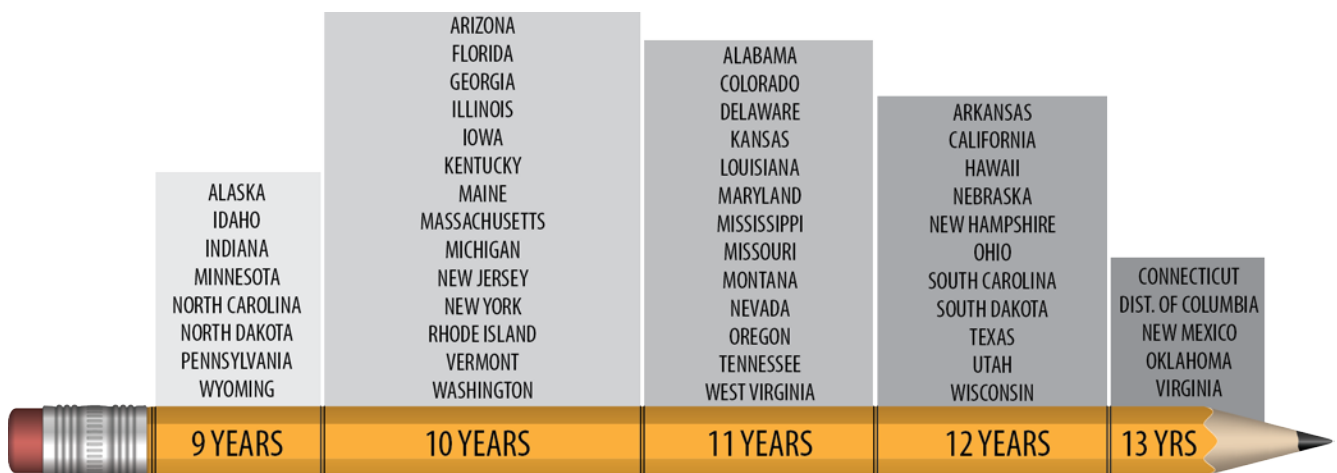
This 50-State Analysis will answer these questions:

- **What is the minimum age that a student is required to attend school?**
- **What is the maximum age that a student can be required to attend school?**
- **How many years total are students required to attend school?**

Introduction

Compulsory school attendance refers to the minimum and maximum age required by each state in which a student must be enrolled in and attending public school or some equivalent education program defined by the law. The vast majority of states include an added clause providing for pupils to be released from compulsory attendance requirements upon graduation of high school, regardless of age. Additionally, nearly half of all states allow children ranging from ages 14-18 to be exempt from the compulsory attendance requirement if they meet one or more of the following stipulations: are employed, have a physical or mental condition that makes the child's attendance infeasible, have passed the 8th-grade level, have their parents' permission, have the permission of the district court or the local school board, meet the requirements for an exit interview, or have attained alternative education such as vocational or technical school.

How many years are students required to be in school?



State/Territory (Citation)	Age Requirement
Alabama (ALA. CODE § 16-28-3)	6-17 years old
Alaska (ALASKA STAT. 14.30.010)	7-16
Arizona (ARIZ. REV. STAT. § 15-802, §15-802-D-2)	6-16 (or completion of 10th grade)
Arkansas (ARK. STAT. ANN. § 6-18-201)	5-17
California (CAL. EDUC. CODE § 48200)	6-18
Colorado (COLO. REV. STAT. § 22-33-104)	6-17
Connecticut (CONN. GEN. STAT. § 10-184)	5-18
Delaware (14 DEL. CODE ANN. §2702)	5-16
District of Columbia (D.C. CODE ANN. § 38-202)	5-18
Florida (FLA. STAT. § 1003.21)	6-16
Georgia (GA. CODE ANN. § 20-2-690.1)	6-16
Hawaii (HAW. REV. STAT. § 302A-1132)	6-18
Idaho (IDAHO CODE § 33-202)	7-16
Illinois (105 ILL. COMP. STAT. ANN. 5/26-1)	7-17
Indiana (IND. CODE ANN. § 20-33-2-6; § 22-33-2-9(B))	7-16
Iowa (IOWA CODE §299.1A)	6-16
Kansas (KAN. STAT. ANN. § 72-1111)	7-18
Kentucky (KY. REV. STAT. ANN. § 159.010)	6-16 [effective 2015-16, local boards may raise upper age from 16 to 18. Once (and if) 55% of all districts have done so, all districts would be required to raise the age to 18.]
Louisiana (LA. REV. STAT. ANN. § 17:221)	7-18
Maine (ME. REV. STAT. ANN. § TIT. 20A, § 3271)	7-17

State/Territory (Citation)	Age Requirement
Maryland (MD. CODE ANN., EDUC. § 7-301)	5-16 [effective 2015-16, age 17; effective 2017-18, age 18]
Massachusetts (MASS. REGS. CODE TIT. 603. § 8.02 MASS. GEN. LAWS ANN. CH. 76 § 1)	6-16
Michigan (MICH. STAT. ANN. § 380.1561)	6-16
Minnesota (MINN. STAT. § 120A.22)	7-16
Mississippi (MISS. CODE ANN. § 37-13-91)	6-17
Missouri (MO. REV. STAT. § 167.031)	7-16
Montana (MONT. CODE ANN. § 20-5-102)	7-16
Nebraska (NEB. REV. STAT. ANN. § 79-201)	6-18
Nevada (NEV. REV. STAT. ANN. § 392.040)	7-18
New Hampshire (N.H. REV. STAT. ANN. § 193.1)	6-18
New Jersey (N.J. REV. STAT. §18A:38-25)	6-16
New Mexico (N.M. STAT. ANN. § 22-8-2; § 22-12-2; § 22-8-2 m(3))	5-18
New York (N.Y. EDUC. LAW § 3205)	6-16
North Carolina (N.C. GEN. STAT. § 115C-378)	7-16
North Dakota (N.D. CENT. CODE § 15.1-20-01)	7-16
Ohio (OHIO REV. CODE ANN. § 3321.01)	6-18
Oklahoma (70 OKLA. STAT. TIT, 70, § 10-105)	5-18
Oregon (OR. REV. STAT. § 339.010)	7-18
Pennsylvania (PA. STAT. ANN. § 13-1326)	8-17
Rhode Island (R.I. GEN. LAWS § 16-19-1)	6-16 ¹
South Carolina	5-17

State/Territory (Citation)	Age Requirement
(S.C. CODE ANN. § 59-65-10)	
South Dakota (S.D. CODIFIED LAWS § 13-27-1)	6-18 ²
Tennessee (TENN. CODE ANN. § 49-6-3001 (C)(1))	6-17
Texas (TEX. EDUC. CODE ANN. § 25.085)	6-18
Utah (UTAH CODE ANN. § 53A-11-101)	6-18
Vermont (VT. STAT. ANN. TIT. 16 § 1121)	6-16 (or completion of 10 th grade)
Virginia (VA. CODE ANN. § 22.1-254)	5-18
Washington (WASH. REV. CODE § 28A.225.010)	8-18
West Virginia (W. VA. CODE § 18-8-1A)	6-17 (eff. Class of 2015)
Wisconsin (WIS. STAT. § 118.15)	6-18
Wyoming (WYO. STAT. ANN. § 21-4-102)	7-16

¹ Age 16 if a student has an alternative learning plan for obtaining a high school diploma or its equivalent.

² Age 16 if a child enrolls in a general education development test preparation program that is school based or for which a school contracts, and the child successfully completes the test or reaches the age of 18 years.

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