

## Home School Law

53G-6-204. School-age children exempt from school attendance. Effective 7/1/2020

- (1) (a) A local school board or charter school governing board may excuse a school-age child from attendance for any of the following reasons:
    - (i) a school-age child over age 16 may receive a partial release from school to enter employment, or attend a trade school, if the school-age child has completed grade 8; or
    - (ii) on an annual basis, a school-age child may receive a full release from attending a public, regularly established private, or part-time school or class if:
      - (A) the school-age child has already completed the work required for graduation from high school;
      - (B) the school-age child is in a physical or mental condition, certified by a competent physician if required by the local school board or charter school governing board, which renders attendance inexpedient and impracticable;
      - (C) proper influences and adequate opportunities for education are provided in connection with the school-age child's employment; or
      - (D) the district superintendent or charter school governing board has determined that a school-age child over the age of 16 is unable to profit from attendance at school because of inability or a continuing negative attitude toward school regulations and discipline.
  - (b) A school-age child receiving a partial release from school under Subsection (1)(a)(i) is required to attend:
    - (i) school part time as prescribed by the local school board or charter school governing board; or
    - (ii) a home school part time.
  - (c) In each case, evidence of reasons for granting an exemption under Subsection (1) must be sufficient to satisfy the local school board or charter school governing board.
  - (d) A local school board or charter school governing board that excuses a school-age child from attendance as provided by this Subsection (1) shall issue a certificate that the child is excused from attendance during the time specified on the certificate.
- (2) (a) A local school board shall excuse a school-age child from attendance, if the school-age child's parent files a signed and notarized affidavit with the school-age child's school district of residence, as defined in Section 53G-6-302, that:
    - (i) the school-age child will attend a home school; and
    - (ii) the parent assumes sole responsibility for the education of the school-age child, except to the extent the school-age child is dual enrolled in a public school as provided in Section 53G-6-702.
  - (b) A signed and notarized affidavit filed in accordance with Subsection (2)(a) shall remain in effect as long as:
    - (i) the school-age child attends a home school; and
    - (ii) the school district where the affidavit was filed remains the school-age child's district of residence.
  - (c) A parent of a school-age child who attends a home school is solely responsible for:
    - (i) the selection of instructional materials and textbooks;
    - (ii) the time, place, and method of instruction; and
    - (iii) the evaluation of the home school instruction.
  - (d) A local school board may not:
    - (i) require a parent of a school-age child who attends a home school to maintain records of instruction or attendance;
    - (ii) require credentials for individuals providing home school instruction;
    - (iii) inspect home school facilities; or
    - (iv) require standardized or other testing of home school students.
  - (e) Upon the request of a parent, a local school board shall identify the knowledge, skills, and competencies a student is recommended to attain by grade level and subject area to assist the parent in achieving college and career readiness through home schooling.
  - (f) A local school board that excuses a school-age child from attendance as provided by this Subsection (2) shall annually issue a certificate stating that the school-age child is excused from attendance for the specified school year.
  - (g) A local school board shall issue a certificate excusing a school-age child from attendance:
    - (i) within 30 days after receipt of a signed and notarized affidavit filed by the school-age child's parent pursuant to this Subsection (2); and
    - (ii) on or before August 1 each year thereafter unless:
      - (A) the school-age child enrolls in a school within the school district;
      - (B) the school-age child's parent notifies the school district that the school-age child no longer attends a home school; or
      - (C) the school-age child's parent notifies the school district that the school-age child's school district of residence has changed.
- (3) A parent who files a signed and notarized affidavit as provided in Subsection (2)(a) is exempt from the application of Subsections 53G-6-202(2), (5), and (6).
- (4) Nothing in this section may be construed to prohibit or discourage voluntary cooperation, resource sharing, or testing opportunities between a school or school district and a parent of a child attending a home school.