



HB 0009

2003

1                                   A bill to be entitled  
 2           An act relating to public school attendance; amending ss.  
 3           1002.20, 1003.21, and 1003.51, F.S.; raising the age of  
 4           compulsory school attendance from 16 years of age to 17  
 5           years of age; conforming provisions relating to a  
 6           student's right to file a formal declaration of intent to  
 7           terminate school enrollment; providing an effective date.

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 9   Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

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 11           Section 1. Paragraphs (a) and (b) of subsection (2) of  
 12           section 1002.20, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

13           1002.20 K-12 student and parent rights.--K-12 students and  
 14           their parents are afforded numerous statutory rights including,  
 15           but not limited to, the following:

16           (2) ATTENDANCE.--

17           (a) *Compulsory school attendance.*--The compulsory school  
 18           attendance laws apply to all children between the ages of 6 and  
 19           17 ~~16~~ years, as provided in s. 1003.21(1) and (2)(a), and, in  
 20           accordance with the provisions of s. 1003.21(1) and (2)(a):

21           1. A student who attains the age of 17 ~~16~~ years during the  
 22           school year has the right to file a formal declaration of intent  
 23           to terminate school enrollment if the declaration is signed by  
 24           the parent. The parent has the right to be notified by the  
 25           school district of the district's receipt of the student's  
 26           declaration of intent to terminate school enrollment.

27           2. Students who become or have become married or who are  
 28           pregnant and parenting have the right to attend school and  
 29           receive the same or equivalent educational instruction as other  
 30           students.



HB 0009

2003

31 (b) *Regular school attendance.*--Parents of students who  
 32 have attained the age of 6 years by February 1 of any school  
 33 year but who have not attained the age of 17 ~~16~~ years must  
 34 comply with the compulsory school attendance laws. Parents have  
 35 the option to comply with the school attendance laws by  
 36 attendance of the student in a public school; a parochial,  
 37 religious, or denominational school; a private school; a home  
 38 education program; or a private tutoring program, in accordance  
 39 with the provisions of s. 1003.01(13) ~~(14)~~.

40 Section 2. Paragraphs (a) and (c) of subsection (1) of  
 41 section 1003.21, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

42 1003.21 School attendance.--

43 (1)(a)1. All children who have attained the age of 6 years  
 44 or who will have attained the age of 6 years by February 1 of  
 45 any school year or who are older than 6 years of age but who  
 46 have not attained the age of 17 ~~16~~ years, except as otherwise  
 47 provided, are required to attend school regularly during the  
 48 entire school term.

49 2. Children who will have attained the age of 5 years on  
 50 or before September 1 of the school year are eligible for  
 51 admission to public kindergartens during that school year under  
 52 rules adopted by the district school board.

53 (c) A student who attains the age of 17 ~~16~~ years during  
 54 the school year is not subject to compulsory school attendance  
 55 beyond the date upon which he or she attains that age if the  
 56 student files a formal declaration of intent to terminate school  
 57 enrollment with the district school board. The declaration must  
 58 acknowledge that terminating school enrollment is likely to  
 59 reduce the student's earning potential and must be signed by the  
 60 student and the student's parent. The school district must



HB 0009

2003

61 notify the student's parent of receipt of the student's  
 62 declaration of intent to terminate school enrollment.

63 Section 3. Subsection (4) of section 1003.51, Florida  
 64 Statutes, is amended to read:

65 1003.51 Other public educational services.--

66 (4) The Department of Education shall ensure that district  
 67 school boards notify students in juvenile justice residential or  
 68 nonresidential facilities who attain the age of 17 ~~16~~ years of  
 69 the provisions of law regarding compulsory school attendance and  
 70 make available the option of enrolling in a program to attain a  
 71 Florida high school diploma by taking the general educational  
 72 development test prior to release from the facility. District  
 73 school boards or community colleges, or both, shall waive GED  
 74 testing fees for youth in Department of Juvenile Justice  
 75 residential programs and shall, upon request, designate schools  
 76 operating for the purpose of providing educational services to  
 77 youth in Department of Juvenile Justice programs as GED testing  
 78 centers, subject to GED testing center requirements. The  
 79 administrative fees for the general education development test  
 80 required by the Department of Education are the responsibility  
 81 of district school boards and may be required of providers by  
 82 contractual agreement.

83 Section 4. This act shall take effect July 1, 2003.