



## School Attendance Age

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### School Attendance Age Limits

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#### Introduction

States have a variety of requirements for the attendance age of their students. “Free education,” also referred to as “statutory age,” refers to the ages in which a person must be admitted to a public school by law without charge. “Compulsory age” refers to the range of ages during which a resident of a state must attend school on a regular basis. While ten states have either not set a maximum age limit to which free education must be provided or have left that determination up to the local education agency, all states (including Washington, D.C) have implemented minimum age limits and compulsory attendance ages into law.

#### Statutory Age (upper):

- Twenty-six years of age: One state
- Twenty-two years of age: One state
- Twenty-one years of age: 30 states
- Twenty years of age: Eight states
- Nineteen years of age: One state

#### Statutory Age (lower):

- Six years of age: Two states
- Five years of age: 43 states
- Four years of age: Five states
- Three years of age: One state

#### Compulsory Age (upper):

- Eighteen years of age: 16 states
- Seventeen years of age: Nine states
- Sixteen years of age: 26 states

#### Compulsory Age (lower)

- Eight years of age: Two states
- Seven years of age: 17 states
- Six years of age: 23 states
- Five years of age: Nine states

#### Free and Compulsory School Attendance Ages By State

State	Maximum age limit to which free education must be offered	Minimum age to which free services must be offered	Compulsory age attendance requirements
Alabama	UNABLE TO LOCATE/LOCAL DETERMINATION	5 (ALA. CODE § 16-28-4)	7-16 (ALA. CODE § 16-28-3)
Alaska	20 (ALASKA STAT. § 14.03.070)	5 (ALASKA STAT. § 14.03.080)	7-16 (ALASKA STAT. § 14.30.010)
Arizona	21 (ARIZ. CONST. ART. XI, § 6)	5 (ARIZ. REV. STAT. § 15-821)	6-16 (ARIZ. REV. STAT. § 15-802)
Arkansas	21 (ARK. CONST. ART. XIV, § 1)	5 (ARK. CODE ANN. § 6-18-207)	5-17 (ARK. CODE. ANN. § 6-18-201)

State	Maximum age limit to which free education must be offered	Minimum age to which free services must be offered	Compulsory age attendance requirements
<b>California</b>	21 (CAL EDUC. CODE § 46300.1)	5 (CAL. EDUC. CODE § 48000)	6-18 (CAL. EDUC. CODE 48200)
<b>Colorado</b>	21 (COLO. REV. STAT. § 22-1-102)	5 (COLO. REV. STAT. §22-1-102)	7-17 (COLO. REV. STAT. §22-33-104)
<b>Connecticut</b>	21 (CON. GEN. STAT. § 10-186)	5 (CON. GEN. STAT. § 10-184)	5-18 (CON. GEN. STAT. § 10-184)
<b>Delaware</b>	20 (DEL. CODE ANN. tit. 14, § 202)	5 (DEL. CODE ANN. tit. 14, § 202)	5-16 (DEL. CODE ANN. tit. 14, § 2702)
<b>District of Columbia</b>	NO UPPER AGE LIMIT (D.C. MUN. REGS. tit. 5, § 2000.3)	5 (D.C. CODE ANN. § 38-202)	5-18 (D.C. CODE ANN. § 38-202)
<b>Florida</b>	UNABLE TO LOCATE/LOCAL DETERMINATION	4 (FLA. CONST. ART. IX, § 1)	6-16 (FLA. STAT. ANN. § 1003.21)
<b>Georgia</b>	20 (GA. CODE ANN. § 20-2-150)	5 (GA. CODE ANN. § 20-2-150)	6-16 (GA. CODE ANN. § 20-2-690.1)
<b>Hawaii</b>	UNABLE TO LOCATE	5 (HAW. REV. STAT. 302A-411)	6-18 (HAW. REV. STAT. 302A-1132)
<b>Idaho</b>	21 (IDAHO CODE § 33-201)	5 (IDAHO CODE § 33-201)	7-16 (IDAHO CODE § 33-202)
<b>Illinois</b>	21 (105 ILL. COMP. STAT. ANN. § 5/26-2)	4 (105 ILL COMP. STAT. ANN. § 5/34-19)	7-17 (105 ILL. COMP. STAT. ANN. § 5/26-1).
<b>Indiana</b>	22 (IND. CODE ANN. § 20-21-1-6)	5 (IND. CODE ANN. § 20-33-2-7)	7-16 (IND. CODE ANN. § 20-33-2-6)
<b>Iowa</b>	21 (IOWA CODE ANN. § 282.1)	5 (IOWA CODE ANN. § 282.1)	6-16 (IOWA CODE ANN. § 299.1A)
<b>Kansas</b>	UNABLE TO LOCATE/LOCAL DETERMINATION	5 (KAN. STAT. ANN. § 72-1107)	7-18 (KAN. STAT. ANN. § 72-1111)
<b>Kentucky</b>	21 (KY. REV. STAT. ANN §158.100)	5 (KY. REV. STAT. ANN. § 158.030)	6-16 (KY. REV. STAT. ANN. 159.010)
<b>Louisiana</b>	21 (LA. REV. STAT. ANN. § 17:221.3)	5 (LA. REV. STAT. ANN. § 17:222)	7-18 (LA. REV. STAT. ANN. § 17:221)
<b>Maine</b>	20 (ME. REV. STAT. ANN. tit. 20A, § 5201)	4 (ME. REV. STAT. ANN. tit. 20A, § 5201)	7-17 (ME. REV. STAT. ANN. tit. 20A, § 5001-A)
<b>Maryland</b>	21 (MD. CODE ANN., EDUC. § 7-101)	5 (MD. CODE ANN., EDUC. § 7-101)	5-16 (MD. CODE ANN., EDUC. § 7-301)
<b>Massachusetts</b>	21 (MASS. GEN. LAWS ch. 71B, § 1)	3 (MASS. GEN. LAWS ch. 71B, § 1)	6-16 (MASS. GEN. LAWS ANN. ch. 76, § 1; MASS. REGS. CODE tit. 603, § 8.02)
<b>Michigan</b>	20 (MICH. COMP. LAWS § 388.1606)	5 (MICH. COMP. LAWS § 380.1147)	6-16 (MICH. COMP. LAWS § 380.1561)
<b>Minnesota</b>	21 (MINN. STAT. § 120A.20)	5 (MINN. STAT. § 120A.20)	7-16 (MINN. STAT. § 120A.22)
<b>Mississippi</b>	21 (MISS. CODE ANN. 37-45-1)	5 (MISS. CODE ANN. § 37-15-9)	6-17 (MISS. CODE ANN. § 37-13-91)

State	Maximum age limit to which free education must be offered	Minimum age to which free services must be offered	Compulsory age attendance requirements
<b>Missouri</b>	21 (MO. CONST. ART. IX, § 1A)	5 (MO. REV. STAT. § 160.051)	7-16 (MO. REV. STAT. § 167.031)
<b>Montana</b>	19 (MONT. CODE ANN. § 20-5-101)	6 (MONT. CODE ANN. § 20-5-101)	7-16 (MONT. CODE ANN. § 20-5-102)
<b>Nebraska</b>	21 (NEB. CONST. ART. VII, § 1)	5 (NEB. CONST. ART. VII, § 1)	6-18 (NEB. REV. STAT. § 79-201)
<b>Nevada</b>	UNABLE TO LOCATE/LOCAL DETERMINATION	5 (NEV. REV. STAT. § 392.040)	7-17 (NEV. REV. STAT. § 392.040)
<b>New Hampshire</b>	21 (N.H. REV. STAT. ANN. § 189:1-a)	UNABLE TO LOCATE/LOCAL DETERMINATION	6-16 (N.H. REV. STAT. § 193:1)
<b>New Jersey</b>	20 (N.J. REV. STAT. § 18A:38-1)	5 (N.J. REV. STAT. § 18A:38-1)	6-16 (N.J. REV. STAT. § 18A-38-25)
<b>New Mexico</b>	21 (N.M. STAT. ANN. § 22-1-2)	5 (N.M. STAT. ANN. § 22-1-2)	5-18 (N.M. STAT ANN. §§ 22-8-2, 22-12-2)
<b>New York</b>	21 (N.Y. EDUC. LAW § 3202)	5 (N.Y. EDUC. LAW § 3202)	6-16 (N.Y. EDUC. LAW § 3205)
<b>North Carolina</b>	21 (N.C. GEN. STAT. § 115C-1)	5 (N.C. GEN. STAT. § 115C-364)	7-16 (N.C. GEN. STAT. § 115C-378)
<b>North Dakota</b>	21 (N.D. CENT. CODE § 15.1-06-01)	5 (N.D. CENT. CODE § 15.1-22-02)	7-16 (N.D. CENT. CODE § 15.1-20-01)
<b>Ohio</b>	21 (OHIO REV. CODE ANN. § 3313.64)	5 (OHIO REV. CODE ANN. § 3321.01)	6-18 (OHIO REV. CODE ANN. § 3321.01)
<b>Oklahoma</b>	21 (OKLA. STAT. ANN. tit. 70, § 1-114)	5 (OKLA. STAT. ANN. tit. 70, § 1-114)	5-18 OKLA. STAT. ANN. TIT. 70, § 10-105
<b>Oregon</b>	21 (OR. REV. STAT. § 339.115)	5 (OR. REV. STAT. § 339.115)	7-18 (OR. REV. STAT. § 339.010)
<b>Pennsylvania</b>	21 (PA. CONS. STAT. ANN. § 13-1301)	6 (PA. CONS. STAT. ANN. § 13-1301)	8-17 (PA. CONS. STAT. ANN. § 13-1326)
<b>Rhode Island</b>	UNABLE TO LOCATE/LOCAL DETERMINATION	5 (R.I. GEN. LAWS § 16-2-27)	6-16 (R.I. GEN. LAWS § 16-19-1)
<b>South Carolina</b>	21 (S.C. CODE ANN. § 59-63-20)	5 (S.C. CODE ANN. § 59-63-20)	5-17 (S.C. CODE ANN. § 59-65-10)
<b>South Dakota</b>	21 (S.D. CODIFIED LAWS § 13-28-5)	5 (S.D. CODIFIED LAWS § 13-28-2)	6-16 (S.D. CODIFIED LAWS § 13-27-1)
<b>Tennessee</b>	NO UPPER AGE LIMIT (TENN. CODE ANN. § 49-6-3001)	5 (TENN. CODE ANN. § 49-6-3001)	6-17 (TENN. CODE ANN. § 49-6-3001)
<b>Texas</b>	26 (TEX. EDUC. CODE ANN. § 25.001)	5 (TEX. EDUC. CODE ANN. § 25.001)	6-18 (TEX. EDUC. CODE ANN. § 25.085)
<b>Utah</b>	UNABLE TO LOCATE/LOCAL DETERMINATION	5 (UTAH CODE ANN. § 53A-3-402)	6-18 (UTAH CODE ANN. § 53A-11-101)
<b>Vermont</b>	UNABLE TO LOCATE/LOCAL DETERMINATION	5 (VT. STAT. ANN. tit. 16, § 1073)	6-16 (VT. STAT. ANN. tit. 16, § 1121)

State	Maximum age limit to which free education must be offered	Minimum age to which free services must be offered	Compulsory age attendance requirements
<b>Virginia</b>	20 (VA. CODE ANN. § 22.1-1)	5 (VA. CODE ANN. § 22.1-1)	5-18 (VA. CODE ANN. § 22.1-254)
<b>Washington</b>	21 (WASH. REV. CODE ANN. § 28A.225.160)	5 (WASH. REV. CODE ANN. § 28A.225.160)	8-18 (WASH. REV. CODE ANN. § 28A.225.010)
<b>West Virginia</b>	21 (W. VA. CODE § 18-5-15)	5 (W. VA. CODE § 18-5-18)	6-16 (W. VA. CODE § 18-8-1)
<b>Wisconsin</b>	20 (WIS. CONST. ART. X, § 3)	4 (WIS. CONST. ART. X, § 3)	6-18 (WIS. STAT. ANN. § 118.15)
<b>Wyoming</b>	21 (WYO. STAT. ANN. § 21-4-301)	5 (WYO. STAT. ANN. § 21-4-301)	7-16 (WYO. STAT. ANN. § 21-4-102)

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