



Ohio Revised Code

Section 3321.04 Scope of obligation.

Effective: [March 20, 2025](#)

Legislation: [Senate Bill 196](#)

Notwithstanding division (D) of section 3311.19 and division (D) of section 3311.52 of the Revised Code, this section does not apply to any joint vocational or cooperative education school district or its superintendent.

Every parent of any child of compulsory school age who is not employed under an age and schooling certificate or exempt under section 3321.042 of the Revised Code must send such child to a school or a special education program that conforms to the minimum standards prescribed by the director of education and workforce, for the full time the school or program attended is in session, which shall not be for less than thirty-two weeks per school year. Such attendance must begin within the first week of the school term or program or within one week of the date on which the child begins to reside in the district or within one week after the child's withdrawal from employment.

For the purpose of operating a school or program on a trimester plan, "full time the school attended is in session," as used in this section means the two trimesters to which the child is assigned by the board of education. For the purpose of operating a school or program on a quarterly plan, "full time the school attended is in session," as used in this section, means the three quarters to which the child is assigned by the board of education. For the purpose of operating a school or program on a pentamester plan, "full time the school is in session," as used in this section, means the four pentamesters to which the child is assigned by the board of education.

Excuses from future attendance at or past absence from school or a special education program may be granted for the causes, by the authorities, and under the following conditions:

(A) The superintendent of the school district in which the child resides may excuse a child enrolled in the district from attendance for any part of the remainder of the current school year upon satisfactory showing of either of the following facts:

(1) That the child's bodily or mental condition does not permit attendance at school or a special



education program during such period; this fact is certified in writing by a licensed physician, clinical nurse specialist, or certified nurse practitioner or, in the case of a mental condition, by a licensed physician, a licensed clinical nurse specialist or certified nurse practitioner, a licensed psychologist, licensed school psychologist, or a certificated school psychologist; and provision is made for appropriate instruction of the child, in accordance with Chapter 3323. of the Revised Code;

(2) That the child is being instructed at home by a person qualified to teach the branches in which instruction is required, and such additional branches, as the advancement and needs of the child may, in the opinion of such superintendent, require. In each such case the issuing superintendent shall file in the superintendent's office, with a copy of the excuse, papers showing how the inability of the child to attend school or a special education program or the qualifications of the person instructing the child at home were determined. All such excuses shall become void and subject to recall upon the removal of the disability of the child or the cessation of home instruction; and thereupon the child or the child's parents may be proceeded against after due notice whether such excuse be recalled or not.

(B) The department of education and workforce may adopt rules authorizing the superintendent of schools of the district in which the child resides to excuse a child over fourteen years of age from attendance for a future limited period for the purpose of performing necessary work directly and exclusively for the child's parents or legal guardians.

All excuses provided for in divisions (A) and (B) of this section shall be in writing and shall show the reason for excusing the child. A copy thereof shall be sent to the person in charge of the child.

(C) The board of education of the school district or the governing authorities of a private or parochial school may in the rules governing the discipline in such schools, prescribe the authority by which and the manner in which any child may be excused for absence from such school for good and sufficient reasons.

The department may by rule prescribe conditions governing the issuance of excuses, which shall be binding upon the authorities empowered to issue them.