

TITLE 3: HUMAN RESOURCES
DIVISION 1: EDUCATION

§ 1141. Elementary and Secondary.

Every person between the ages of six and 16 shall attend a public school or nonpublic school until the completion of the eighth grade. Any parent, guardian, or other person having the responsibility for or care of a child whose attendance at school is obligatory shall send the child to such schools. The Commissioner may grant individual waivers to this compulsory attendance requirement in cases of home study or other circumstances.

Source: PL 6-10, § 1 (§ 1540); amended by PL 11-32, § 4.

Commission Comment: PL 11-32, which amended this section, took effect on September 1, 1998. Section 1 of PL 11-32 contained a statement of purpose which read as follows:

Section 1. Statement of Purpose. The Legislature finds that the CNMI's non-public schools are a valuable asset to the Commonwealth. Non-public schools currently serve over 3,000 of our children who would otherwise be enrolled in the already overcrowded public school system. In addition, we anticipate that the number of children enrolled in both school systems will continue to rise. This law allows non-public schools and their teachers and librarians to act in an independent manner and allows the Board of Education to focus their energies and resources on their primary area of responsibility, the public school system.

The Legislature further finds that the government's interest of ensuring that the well-being of its citizens is protected in the basic areas of health, safety, minimum core curriculum, length of school year, and teacher certification standards can be accomplished without having to charter non-public schools.

Furthermore, the Legislature finds that if private school teachers and librarians are removed from the certification process there no longer exists a reason to have the Board of Education issue teacher and librarian certificates. The Legislature finds that transferring the authority to certify public school teachers and librarians and the authority to revoke certification to the Commissioner of Education will enable the Public School System to improve its ability to track certification and employment.