

26 | entire school term.

27 | 2. Children who will have attained the age of 5 years on
 28 | or before September 1 of the school year are eligible for
 29 | admission to public kindergartens during that school year under
 30 | rules adopted by the district school board.

31 | (c) A student who attains the age of 18 ~~16~~ years during
 32 | the school year is not subject to compulsory school attendance
 33 | beyond the date upon which he or she attains that age if the
 34 | student files a formal declaration of intent to terminate school
 35 | enrollment with the district school board. Public school
 36 | students who have attained the age of 18 ~~16~~ years and who have
 37 | not graduated are subject to compulsory school attendance until
 38 | the formal declaration of intent is filed with the district
 39 | school board. The declaration must acknowledge that terminating
 40 | school enrollment is likely to reduce the student's earning
 41 | potential and must be signed by the student ~~and the student's~~
 42 | ~~parent. The school district shall notify the student's parent of~~
 43 | ~~receipt of the student's declaration of intent to terminate~~
 44 | ~~school enrollment.~~ The student's certified school counselor or
 45 | other school personnel shall conduct an exit interview with the
 46 | student to determine the reasons for the student's decision to
 47 | terminate school enrollment and actions that could be taken to
 48 | keep the student in school. The student's certified school
 49 | counselor or other school personnel shall inform the student of
 50 | opportunities to continue his or her education in a different

51 environment, including, but not limited to, adult education and
52 high school equivalency examination preparation. Additionally,
53 the student shall complete a survey in a format prescribed by
54 the Department of Education to provide data on student reasons
55 for terminating enrollment and actions taken by schools to keep
56 students enrolled.

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

59 1002.20 K-12 student and parent rights.—Parents of public
60 school students must receive accurate and timely information
61 regarding their child's academic progress and must be informed
62 of ways they can help their child to succeed in school. K-12
63 students and their parents are afforded numerous statutory
64 rights including, but not limited to, the following:

65 (2) ATTENDANCE.—

66 (a) Compulsory school attendance.—The compulsory school
67 attendance laws apply to all children between the ages of 6 and
68 18 ~~16~~ years, as provided in s. 1003.21(1) and (2)(a), and, in
69 accordance with the provisions of s. 1003.21(1) and (2)(a):

70 1. A student who attains the age of 18 ~~16~~ years during the
71 school year has the right to file a formal declaration of intent
72 to terminate school enrollment ~~if the declaration is signed by~~
73 ~~the parent. The parent has the right to be notified by the~~
74 ~~school district of the district's receipt of the student's~~
75 ~~declaration of intent to terminate school enrollment.~~

76 2. Students who become or have become married or who are
 77 pregnant and parenting have the right to attend school and
 78 receive the same or equivalent educational instruction as other
 79 students.

80 (b) Regular school attendance.—Parents of students who
 81 have attained the age of 6 years by February 1 of any school
 82 year but who have not attained the age of 18 ~~16~~ years must
 83 comply with the compulsory school attendance laws. Parents have
 84 the option to comply with the school attendance laws by
 85 attendance of the student in a public school, including an adult
 86 education high school equivalency program; a parochial,
 87 religious, or denominational school; a private school; a home
 88 education program; or a private tutoring program, in accordance
 89 with the provisions of s. 1003.01(16).

90 Section 3. Paragraph (a) of subsection (4) of section
 91 1003.51, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

92 1003.51 Other public educational services.—

93 (4) Each district school board shall:

94 ~~(a) Notify students in juvenile justice education programs~~
 95 ~~who attain the age of 16 years of the law regarding compulsory~~
 96 ~~school attendance and make available the option of enrolling in~~
 97 ~~an education program to attain a Florida high school diploma by~~
 98 ~~taking the high school equivalency examination before release~~
 99 ~~from the program. The Department of Education shall assist~~
 100 ~~juvenile justice education programs with becoming high school~~

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101 | ~~equivalency examination centers.~~

102 | Section 4. This act shall take effect July 1, 2026.