

# EXEMPTIONS FROM COMPULSORY SCHOOLING AND COMPULSORY PARTICIPATION

## Information for Parents and Students

### ***What is an exemption and why do I need it?***

Every parent of a child of compulsory school age or a young person in the compulsory participation phase has a legal obligation to ensure their child is enrolled and attending school or participating in an eligible option.

Parents can apply for an exemption from this obligation when their child cannot attend or it would be unreasonable in all the circumstances for their child to attend school or participate in an eligible option for a period of more than 10 consecutive school days.

Situations where an application for an exemption may be made include:

- Illness
- Family reasons
- Cultural or religious reasons

If your child is exempted from compulsory schooling, you are excused from your obligation in relation to compulsory schooling or compulsory participation.

The school principal is not responsible for providing an educational program to your child, however they may provide advice on other educational options available.

### ***Who decides to grant or not grant an exemption?***

#### **• For state school students:**

Decisions about exemptions are made by the principal of the school the student attends.

Any exemption application for a period of more than 110 school days or that would cause the total period of exemptions granted in a year to exceed 110 school days is decided by the Manager, Office of Non-state Education.

#### **• For children who are not enrolled in any state or non-state Queensland school:**

Decisions about exemptions for students who are not enrolled in any state or non-state school are made by either the Regional Director, Principal Advisor Education Services, Principal Advisor Regional Services, Director Regional Services, of the Department of Education and Training region in which the child resides.

### ***Applying for an exemption***

You are encouraged to discuss with the school whether an application for exemption is a suitable option. The school can provide you with an application form for an exemption. It is important that supporting documentation and evidence are attached to the application.

When a decision about the exemption has been made, you will be informed in writing whether or not the exemption has been granted and if any conditions have been imposed. If you are not satisfied with the decision made, you can make a submission for the decision to be reviewed.

An **exemption** from compulsory schooling or the compulsory participation phase is available when a child or a young person **cannot attend or it would be unreasonable in all the circumstances** for them to attend school or participate in an *eligible option* **for a period of more than 10 consecutive school days**.

This procedure outlines the process for applying for an exemption from compulsory schooling and compulsory participation phase.

## Overview

The exemption excuses *parents* from their legal obligation to ensure that their child:

- of *compulsory school age* is enrolled at or attends a school, or
- in the *compulsory participation phase*, is participating full-time in an eligible option.

In the following circumstances, a parent of a child who is of **compulsory school age is automatically relieved of their legal obligations and an exemption is not required where the child is:**

- undertaking activities under Commonwealth law
- provisionally registered or registered for home education
- suspended from school
- excluded from a state school or certain state schools, during the time reasonably required to enrol the student in another state or non-state school or to provisionally register for home education
- prevented from attending because they are subject to direction or declaration in relation to an infectious or contagious disease or condition
- there is an application for enrolment pending at a state school
- an apprentice or trainee under the *Further Education and Training Act 2014*.

In the following circumstances, a parent of a young person in the **compulsory participation phase is automatically relieved of their legal obligations and an exemption is not required where the young person is:**

- suspended from school
- excluded from all state schools
- excluded from a state school or certain state schools, during the time reasonably required to enrol the student in another state or non-state school or to provisionally register for home education
- prevented from attending because they are subject to direction or declaration in relation to an infectious or contagious disease or condition
- there is an application for enrolment pending at a state school
- an apprentice or trainee under the *Further Education and Training Act 2014*
- engaged in full-time work (25 hours per week or more)
- enrolled in a non-departmental employment skills program
- undertaking activities under Commonwealth law
- provisionally registered or registered for home education.

A parent may apply for an exemption from compulsory schooling for their child. Either a parent or a young person may apply for an exemption from the compulsory participation phase. Applications for exemption must include signed consent of a parent.