

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.

• For non-state school students:

Non-state school principals have the authority to approve exemptions of up to and including 110 school days in a calendar year that do not cause the total period of exemptions granted in the year to exceed 110 school days.

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, Training and Employment 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.

