

Compulsory education

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School attendance is compulsory for all children aged from 5 to 16. Young people aged from 16 to 18 are required to obtain a basic qualification, known as a startkwalificatie, before leaving school. Without this qualification, they must continue to attend school until they are 18-years-old. Qualifications that count toward this requirement are havo diplomas, vwo diplomas, and mbo diplomas (levels 2, 3, and 4).

Education welfare officers

The City's education welfare officer (leerplichtambtenaar) ensures that pupils and parents meet compulsory school attendance requirements. When children miss school, the education welfare officer will work with teachers and parents to find a solution.

If your child continues to miss school, or if you have not enrolled your child in school, the education welfare officer will investigate and you could be prosecuted.

School holidays and requesting leave

Outside of school holidays and scheduled days off, children have to attend school. In exceptional circumstances, you can request additional leave during the school term. Requests of fewer than 10 days must be submitted to the head of your school. To request a leave of absence lasting longer than 10 days, contact the education welfare officer.

Your child's school can give you more information about missing school due to illness, as well as about absences and requesting leave.