



## 304-1 Age of Minor Child and Student Status

<b>Supersedes:</b>	TANF 304-1 (07/01/03)
<b>References:</b>	ARM 37.78.102, .103, .206, .207, and .208
<b>Overview:</b>	<p><u>GENERAL RULE</u>– TANF cash assistance is provided to a needy family with a minor child.</p> <p>A minor child is an individual under age 18, or if age 18 is attending secondary school or an equivalent level program full-time. When the 18-year-old is no longer attending school full-time, his/her eligibility ends the last day of the month school attendance ends. The month after the child turns 19 he/she is no longer considered a minor child regardless of school attendance.</p> <p>Minor children, age 16 or 17, not attending secondary school or an equivalent level program full-time, are required to complete a Family Investment Agreement/WoRC Employability Plan (FIA/EP). (TANF 701-1)</p>
<b>SCHOOL ATTENDANCE</b>	<p>In most public schools (elementary and secondary), full-time attendance is defined as receiving instruction for the school term (180 instructional days) approximately six (6) hours per day/30 hours per week.</p> <p>To determine school attendance and full-time student status for the 16, 17, or 18-year-old minor child, request a statement from the appropriate school official. If the child is “home schooled” request this information from the child’s caretaker relative.</p>
<b>HOME SCHOOLING</b>	<p>Minor children may be “home schooled” rather than enrolled in public or private schools. In Montana, home-schooling arrangements must be registered with the county superintendent of schools except if the child is age 16 or older. (Registration is not required for 16-year-old because under Montana law children may choose to not attend any school upon reaching age 16.) Registration identifies those children of school age living in the school district, not enrolled in the school system, but not to be considered truant. “Home schooling” instructional time does not have to be scheduled Monday through Friday nor during “regular” school hours.</p> <p>If the home schooling average weekly hours are within plus or minus five (5) hours of the public school’s schedule of 30 hours of class time per week, consider the 16, 17, or 18-year-old a full-time student. The 16 or 17-year-old may attend less than full-time and still qualify as a minor child <u>but the 18-year-old must be a full-time secondary school student as stated in the General Rule.</u></p>
<b>GED CLASSES</b>	<p>When the 18-year-old is enrolled and attending GED (Graduate Equivalency Diploma) classes rather than high school, the attendance hours may vary but should closely approximate 30 hours/week on average to qualify the 18-year-old as a full-time student or to allow the 16 or 17-year old to not have a FIA/EP. Request verification of attendance hours and other requirements from the institution providing the instruction.</p>
<b>Date Revised</b>	July 1, 2006