

## Right to education and compulsory education (leerplicht)



In the Netherlands all children have the right to education. To protect this right all schools have the duty to report unauthorized absence or delays to the compulsory education office (leerplicht). A school attendance officer (leerplichtambtenaar) is an independent person employed by the municipality of Amstelveen, who supports the parent(s)/guardian(s) with finding a suitable solution to stop the non-attendance. A school attendance officer:

- Guides parent(s)/guardian(s) in the event of (imminent) absenteeism;
- Investigates unauthorized absences or late attendance to school and find a solution by means of talking to the parent(s)/guardian(s);
- Makes and authorizes a police report if the investigation into a case of absence does not resolve in a solution and a pupil continues to miss school without good reason. This report states how often and why a pupil has been absent. This report will be evaluated by the public prosecutor, who ultimately decides whether a punishment will follow, for example a fine;
- Reviews requests for exemptions (vrijstellingen) and additional leave that concerns more than 10 school days.

### Additional leave during the school term

There may be reasons why a pupil does not have to attend school, for example an important family event. Parent(s) / guardian(s) can request additional leave during the school term. Requests of fewer than 10 days must be submitted to the head of your children's school. To request a leave of absence lasting longer than 10 days, permission from the school attendance officer is required. If the leave request is not approved, the pupil is obligated to go to school. If it turns out that the pupil is not at school even though the request is not approved, the school will report this as absenteeism. On the next page you will find a list of valid and non-valid reasons for extra leave.

### Contact compulsory education office Amstelveen

Telephone: (020) 5404911

E-mail: [leerplicht.rmc@amstelveen.nl](mailto:leerplicht.rmc@amstelveen.nl)

### Valid reasons for extra leave:

- A legal obligation, insofar as this cannot take place outside class hours: a maximum of 10 school days
- Relocation: a maximum one school day
- Marriage of a family member up to and including the third degree within the place of residence: a maximum of one school day
- Marriage of a family member up to and including the third degree outside the place of residence: a maximum of two school days
- Marriage of a family member up to and including the third degree abroad: a maximum of five school days (a wedding card and/or copy of the marriage certificate must be submitted)
- Death of a family member in the first degree: a maximum of five school days
- Death of a family member in the second degree: maximum two school days
- Death of a family member in the third and fourth degree: a maximum of one school day
- Death of a family member in the first to fourth degree abroad: a maximum of five school days (a bereavement card and/or copy of the death certificate must be submitted for this purpose)
- Serious life-threatening illness with no prospect of recovery of a family member up to and including the third degree: a maximum of 10 school days (a doctor's statement must be submitted showing the serious illness)
- Celebrating 25, 40 and 50 years of service and the 12½, 25, 40, 50 and 60 years wedding anniversary of parents or grandparents: a maximum of one school day
- A medical or social indication (a statement from a GGD doctor or a social institution must be submitted)
- Other serious circumstances, in the opinion of the head of your school, but no holiday leave: a maximum of 10 school days

### Non valid reasons for extra leave

- Holiday spread
- Leave for a child because other children in the family are free or still free from school
- Family visit/reunion/reunion abroad
- Holidays in a cheap period or in connection with a special offer
- Holiday during school time due to lack of other booking options
- An invitation from friends or family to go on holiday outside the normal school holidays
- Holiday in connection with a prize won
- Earlier departure or later return due to traffic
- Travel together or drive in convoy
- Participation in sports and cultural events outside school
- A leave period of parent(s)/ guardian(s), using the life-course savings scheme
- Celebrating Crown Years
- Not (or never) seen (great) grandparents for quite some time
- Birthday celebration (great) grandparents
- Sabbatical
- Long journey/ world trip
- Work schedules from employers, such as airlines, public transport companies (such as NS, GVB or Connexxion); police, hospital, fire brigade or taxi companies
- Participation within school hours in outings/trips organized by, for example, sports, music or dance associations
- Budding talent: courses, tournaments, specific lessons for the benefit of the talent are not allowed during school time (bringing educators is not an alternative)
- A combination of the conditions described above