

Law No. 11 of 1965 Concerning Compulsory Education

**We, ABDULLA AI-SALEM AI-SABAH,
AMIR of the State of Kuwait,**

Having considered Acts 40 and 65 of the constitution, the National Assembly has approved the following Law, which we have endorsed and promulgated:

Article 1

Education shall be compulsory and free for all male and female Kuwaiti children from the beginning of the primary stage until the end of the intermediate stage. The State commits to provide school premises, books, teachers and any other human or material resources which guarantee the success of education.

Article 2

Compulsory education for children starts from the age of six and remains compulsory throughout the period prescribed by the administrative rules and regulations. The Minister of Education is allowed to permit children under the age of six to join schools on condition that the Ministry of Education guarantees the complete care for the nursery period prior to the age of compulsory education.

Article 3

The father is the one who is responsible for compulsory education, and in case of death, absence or placed under guardianship, the responsibility goes to the one who is in charge of the child.

Article 4

A child is discharged from compulsory education if he / she is attacked by an illness or physically impaired, preventing him / her from regular attendance in special education schools or equivalent establishments made available by the Ministry of Education for the disabled.

Children residing in about two kilometers or more away from the nearest school are also exempted from compulsory education in case the Ministry of Education or the parents are unable to provide transportation.

Article 5

All cases of exemption are decided by the Minister of Education and remain valid as long as the causes remain. If the causes no longer exist, commitment to compulsory education will be applicable.

Article 6

Those who are eligible for applying compulsory education are allowed to enroll their children in a private institute, which offers a similar education to that offered in compulsory education schools. The Ministry of Education

should be informed about the name of the institute at least a week before the beginning of the school year.

Article 7

Institutes where education is equivalent to school syllabuses in compulsory education are decided by a Ministerial ordinance.

Article 8

Those responsible for birth registration are entitled to send the Ministry of Education a list of all the names of children who are a year younger than the age of compulsory education every June.

In the first year of the application of this law, the list should include children aged 4 and 5.

The lists should include the name of the child, his parent's, family name, area of residence and address. In case of address change, the child's parent or guardian should inform the Ministry of Education.

Article 9

Official authorities in the Ministry of Education should inform the child's father or guardian about the name of the school where the child will be enrolled as well as the date studies will start, at least two weeks before the school year. If the child does not show up in due time, or does not regularly attend school without any reasonable reasons, the school principle is

obliged to inform the parent with an official document to the registered address.

If the child does not show up during two weeks after the delivery of the official document, or repeats absence without any acceptable reason, the school principle should inform the Ministry of Education during a maximum period of two weeks.

Article 10

Penalties are imposed on any parent or guardian of a child who contravenes the provisions of law by means of a fine of up to KD10 or detention of up to two weeks.

The court is authorized to grant the parent a chance to comply. If he does, he will be discharged of the contravention. Otherwise, he will be penalized as specified, and if the law is broken again, the punishment will include both the fine and the detention.

Article 11

The Ministry of Education is supposed to appoint some of its staff to be responsible for the implementation and regulations of the law of compulsory education.

System of education

Article 12

Compulsory education starts lasts from the primary stage till the intermediate one. The Ministry of Education is allowed to increase or reduce the school years in both primary and intermediate stages.

Article 13

The Ministry of Education sets the curricular and plans, determines the subjects to be studied, lays out the regulations for passing from a class to another, limits the years a student can repeat classes, and specifies the regulations of certificate awards. It also determines the beginning and end of the school year along with other related matters which guarantee the success of work.

Article 14

Those who spent the period of compulsory education without success, and are older than the legal age, are given a special certificate indicating the stage they covered; and may be allowed by the Ministry of Education to get a graduation certificate from private schools equivalent to that given in compulsory education on condition that they have passed the primary stage successfully. All this is done according to the rules and regulations prescribed by the Ministry of Education.

Article 15

All Ministers, each within his jurisdiction, shall implement this Law Decree, and the Minister of Education and Higher Education lays out the necessary regulations related to its implementation. The law will come into force the time it is published in the Official Gazette. Commitment to this law will take effect starting from the school year coming after its publication.

Amir of the State of Kuwait,
Abdullah al-Salim al-Sabah,

Issued on March 27th 1965.