

### School Children—Who May Attend School.

A child may enter school immediately upon becoming six years of age, regardless of the time of the year.

February 20, 1917.

Mr. W. E. Keeley,  
County Attorney,  
Deer Lodge, Montana.

Dear Sir:

I have your letter of February 8th, in connection with the question of the right of a child to enter public school immediately upon becoming six years of age, regardless of the time of the year.

Section 604 of the School Law, Chapter 76 of the 1913 Session Laws, provides that every public school, not otherwise provided for by law, shall be open to the admission of all children between the ages of six and twenty-one years, residing in the school district.

By Section 508 the school board is authorized to prescribe and enforce rules, not inconsistent with law, for the government of the schools under their supervision, and by Section 700 all pupils who may be attending public schools shall comply with the regulations in pursuance of law for the government of such schools, and shall pursue the required course and submit to the authority of the teachers.

Although the trustees may prescribe rules and regulations for the government of schools, yet they cannot take away from any pupil the right to attend the public school immediately upon becoming six years of age. I believe school authorities should use their best efforts to discourage parents from having their children enter school at a time of the year when it would be difficult to give them proper attention, yet if any parent insists, he may compel the school authorities to

permit his child to attend school as soon as the child becomes six years of age.

Respectfully,

S. C. FORD,

Attorney General.