

## Station 6: Attending School

**Directions:** For each station, read the handout with your partner and then complete each of the steps below:

- DISCUSS: Is your station about something you SHOULD do or something you HAVE to do?
- DISCUSS: What *level of community* does your station involve? Are there several levels?
- WRITE: Summarize the most important parts of your station with a few sentences or a political cartoon/drawing.
- WRITE: Briefly describe how the sources after the reading connect to the information you read. What is the message of these sources?

*"Get up!!! It's time to go to school!"* Does this sound familiar? If you're a kid (which you are since you're reading this in 7<sup>th</sup> grade) then chances are that an adult in your house has yelled this out at you before. So why can't you just tell them no? Did you know that **education** isn't even mentioned in the **U.S.**

**Constitution** anyway??

Later in the year you'll learn about the **10<sup>th</sup> amendment and states' rights** in the U.S. Constitution. It basically says that whatever the U.S. (or national/federal/central) government can't do in the U.S. Constitution is left up to the State governments to decide. All 50 states now have compulsory education laws that require attendance up until a certain age. In 1852, Massachusetts was the first state to pass a compulsory education law.

Under Section 1003.21 of the **Florida State Statute (state laws)**, "All children...**who are older than 6 years of age but who have not attained the age of 16 years, are required to attend school** regularly during the entire school term."

Under Section 1003.26, truancy is defined as an offense that can be charged to any student of elementary school age through age 16 who has accumulated 15 or more unexcused absences in a three month period without the knowledge of their parent or guardian. A **court** can issue several different types of punishments on minors and parents including mandatory summer school, being remanded to a detention center, probation, etc...

**"The number one thing I would like to repeal (*pass a law to get rid of*) is the law on compulsory education ... I believe education is still a privilege, and the kids who don't want to be there are a larger distraction to the kids who do want to be there."**

- Paul Mosley, Republican member of the Arizona House of Representatives. (2017)

(Paraphrased) "I know no safe place for ultimate power in a society except with the people themselves. If we think they are not enlightened enough to exercise their control properly, the solution is not to take power from them, but instead to teach them how to properly use power with an education."

- Thomas Jefferson, Founding Father, writer of the Declaration of Independence, 3<sup>rd</sup> U.S. President.

"A good school in every district--all studied and appreciated as they merit--are the principal support of virtue, morality, and civil liberty."

- George Washington, Founding Father, General in the Revolutionary War, 1<sup>st</sup> President of the United States.

**CHILD-LABOR STANDARDS FOR THE NATION'S CHILDREN**

No Child Under 16 Years of Age Should Leave School for Gainful Employment

**School Is Their Full-Time Job**

A basic 16-year minimum age, applying to industrial work at any time and to agricultural work during periods of required school attendance, is the standard set by the child-labor provisions of the Fair Labor Standards Act, administered by the Children's Bureau, which apply to producers of goods for shipment in interstate commerce.

Children working for their parents in agriculture or other occupations except manufacturing and mining are exempt from these provisions.

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR  
CHILDREN'S BUREAU