

# Tennessee School Boards Association

Monitoring: <b>Review: Annually, in April</b>	Descriptor Term: <b>Compulsory Attendance Ages</b>	Descriptor Code: <b>6.201</b>	Issued Date:
		Rescinds:	Issued:

1 Children between the ages of six (6) and seventeen (17) years, both inclusive, must attend a public or  
2 private school.<sup>1</sup> A parent/guardian or legal custodian who believes that their child is not ready to at-  
3 tend school at the designated age of mandatory attendance may make application to the principal of the  
4 public school which the child would attend for a one (1) semester or one year deferral in required at-  
5 tendance. Any such deferral shall be reported to the director of schools by the principal.<sup>2</sup> Under certain  
6 circumstances, the Board may temporarily excuse students from complying with the provisions of the  
7 compulsory attendance law.<sup>3</sup>

8  
9 Any child residing within the state who is or will be five (5) years of age on or before August 31 for  
10 the 2013-2014 school year and on or before August 15 for all school years thereafter, who makes ap-  
11 plication for admission, shall be enrolled in the school designated by the Board.<sup>4</sup>

12  
13 If a child will be five (5) years of age on or before September 30, such child's parent(s)/legal guardian(s)  
14 may request that the child be admitted into kindergarten. Upon a request, the director of schools shall  
15 administer an evaluation and examination. If the results indicate that the child is sufficiently mature  
16 emotionally and academically, then the child may be enrolled into kindergarten. The director of schools  
17 shall develop procedures and forms to implement the provisions of this policy.

18  
19 No child shall be eligible to enter first grade without having attended an approved kindergarten program.<sup>5</sup>

20  
21 A child entering a special education program shall be no less than three (3) years of age.<sup>6</sup>

22  
23 A person eighteen (18) years of age or older who applies for admission must have the application ap-  
24 proved by the principal and director of schools when:

- 25  
26 1. He/she fails to enroll within thirty (30) calendar days after school officially starts; or  
27 2. He/she has dropped out of school and wants to re-enter.

28  
29 The compulsory attendance law shall not apply to the following:<sup>7</sup>

- 30  
31 1. A student who has received a diploma or other certificate of graduation;  
32 2. A student who is enrolled and making satisfactory progress in a course leading to a GED;  
33 3. A student who is six (6) years or younger and whose parent or guardian has filed notice of intent  
34 to conduct home school with the director of schools; or  
35 4. A student enrolled in a home school who has reached the age of seventeen (17).  
36  
37  
38  
39  
40  
41

1  
2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
7  
8  
9  
10  
11  
12  
13  
14  
15  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25  
26  
27  
28  
29  
30  
31  
32  
33  
34  
35  
36  
37  
38  
39  
40  
41  
42  
43  
44  
45  
46  
47  
48  
49

---

Legal References:

1. TCA 49-6-3001 (c)(1)
2. TCA 49-6-3001 (c)(5)
3. TCA 49-6-3005
4. TCA 49-6-201 (b)(3); TCA 49-6-3001 (b)(1)
5. TCA 49-6-201 (8)(d)
6. 20 U.S.C. Sec 5. 1400-1485
7. TCA 49-6-3001 (c)(2)(A)-(D)

---

Cross References:

- Special Education Program 4.202  
Adult Education Program 4.208  
Special Education Students 6.500