

Houston County Board of Education

Monitoring: Review: Annually, in April	Descriptor Term: Compulsory Attendance	Descriptor Code: 6.201	Issued Date: 07/08/13
		Rescinds: JBA	Issued:

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

A child entering kindergarten shall be no less than five (5) year of age on or before September 30 of the 2012-13 school year, August 31 for the 2013-14 school year, and August 15 for all school years thereafter.^{3,4} No child shall be eligible to enter first grade without having attended an approved kindergarten program.⁴ Once a child has been enrolled continuously for thirty (30) days, the student shall be subject to compulsory attendance laws of the state of Tennessee. If the Director of Schools, upon written request of the parent, finds that a child who is five years of age on or before September 30 (for school years 2012-13 and thereafter) is sufficiently mature emotionally and academically, the child may be permitted by the Director of Schools to enter Kindergarten.³

A child entering a special education program shall be no less than three (3) years of age.⁵

A person eighteen (18) years of age or older who applies for admission must have the application approved by the principal and director of schools when:

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

The compulsory attendance law shall not apply to the following:²

1. A student who has received a diploma or other certificate of graduation;
2. A student who is enrolled and making satisfactory progress in a course leading to a GED;
3. A student enrolled in a home school who has reached the age of seventeen (17).
4. A student six years of age or younger whose parent has filed a notice of intent to home school;
5. A student mentally or physically incapacitated to perform school duties, such disability to be attested by a duly licensed physician, in accordance with state law.
6. A student who has attained their seventeenth birthday and whose continued compulsory attendance in the opinion of the Board, results in detriment to good order and discipline and to the instruction of other students, in accordance with state laws; or
7. A student meeting any other requirement of state law or state rules and regulations.

Legal References:

1. TCA 49-6-3001(c)(1);
Covell v. State (1920), 143 Tenn. 571, 227 S.W. 41
2. TCA 49-6-3005; TCA 49-6-3001(c)(5)
3. TCA 49-6-3001(a); TCA 49-6-3001(b)(1)
4. TCA 49-6-201(b)(3); TCA 49-6-201(8)(d); TRR/MS 0520-1-3-.03(10)
5. 20 U.S.C. Sec 5. 1400-1485

Cross References:

Adult Education Program 4.208
Special Education Students 6.500