

Weakley County Board of Education



Monitoring:

Descriptor Term:

Compulsory Attendance Ages

Descriptor Code:

6.201

Issued Date:

09/06/2018

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

9
10 A child entering kindergarten shall be no less than five (5) years of age on or before August 15.
11 No child shall be eligible to enter first grade without having attended an approved kindergarten
12 program.⁴

13
14 A child entering a special education program shall be no less than three (3) years of age.⁵

15
16 A person eighteen (18) years of age or older who applies for admission must have the application
17 approved by the principal and director of schools when:

- 18
19 1. S/he fails to enroll within thirty (30) calendar days after school officially starts; or
20 2. S/he has dropped out of school and wants to re-enter.

21
22 The compulsory attendance law shall not apply to the following:⁶

- 23
24 1. Children mentally or physically incapacitated to perform school duties, such disability to
25 be attested by a duly licensed physician in all cases;
26 2. Children who have completed high school and hold a high school diploma;
27 3. Children temporarily excused from attendance in school under rules and regulations
28 promulgated by the state board of education;
29 4. Children six (6) years of age or under whose parent or guardian have filed a notice of
30 intent to conduct a home school as provided by TCA 49-6-3001 or who are conducting a
31 home school as provided by TCA 49-6-3050; and
32 5. Children who have attained their seventeenth birthday and whose continued compulsory
33 attendance, in the opinion of the Board, results in detriment to good order and discipline
34 and to the instruction of other students and is not of substantial benefit to the children.
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Legal References:

¹ TCA 49-6-3001(c)(1); *Covell v. State* (1920)

² TCA 49-6-3001(c)(5)

³ TCA 49-6-3005

⁴ TCA 49-6-201(d)

⁵ 20 U.S.C. 33 §§ 1400-1482

⁶ TCA 49-6-3005(a)

Cross References:

4.202 Special Education

6.200 Attendance

6.500 Special Education Students