

<u>Section J:</u> Students	Knox County Board of Education		
	Compulsory Attendance Ages	Descriptor Code:	Issued:
		J-122	7/95
	Reviewed:	Revised:	
10/23	12/23		

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2 Children between the ages of six (6) and seventeen (17) years, both inclusive, must attend a public or
3 non-public school.¹ Under certain circumstances the Board may temporarily excuse students from
4 complying with the provisions of the compulsory attendance law.² Pregnancy shall not constitute a reason
5 to be exempted from compulsory school attendance.
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7 Any child residing within the state, six (6) years of age on or before August 15 of the current school year,
8 who makes application for admission shall be enrolled in the school designated by the Board.¹
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10 A child entering kindergarten shall be no less than five (5) years of age on or before August 15 of the
11 current school term.³ No child shall be eligible to enter first grade without having attended an approved
12 kindergarten program.
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14 Any transfer student applying for admission who was legally enrolled in an approved kindergarten in
15 another state and who will be five (5) years of age no later than December 31 of the current school year,
16 shall be enrolled.
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18 A child entering a special education program shall be no less than three (3) years of age.¹
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20 The compulsory attendance law shall not apply to the following:¹
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- 22 1. Children mentally or physically incapacitated to perform school duties, with the disability attested
23 by a duly licensed physician in all cases;
- 24 2. Children who have completed high school and hold a high school diploma or other certificate of
25 graduation;
- 26 3. Children enrolled and making satisfactory progress in a course of instruction leading to a high
27 school equivalency diploma;
- 28 4. Children temporarily excused from attendance in school under rules and regulations promulgated
29 by the State Board of Education, which rules and regulations shall not be in conflict with TCA §
30 49-6-3001 or any other law governing child labor in this state;
- 31 5. Children participating in a program of hospital or homebound instruction administered or
32 approved by the LEA;
- 33 6. Children six (6) years of age or under whose parent or legal guardian have filed a notice of intent
34 to conduct a home school as provided by TCA § 49-6-3001 or who are conducting a home school
35 as provided by TCA § 49-6-3050;
- 36 7. Children enrolled in a home school who have reached seventeen (17) years of age; and
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8. Children who have attained their seventeenth (17th) birthday and whose continued compulsory attendance, in the opinion of the Board of Education in charge of the school to which the children belong and are enrolled, results in detriment to good order and discipline and to the instruction of other students and is not substantial benefit to the children.

Legal References:

- 1. T.C.A. § 49-6-3001.
- 2. T.C.A. § 49-6-3005.
- 3. T.C.A. § 49-6-3001; TCA/MS § 0520-1-3-.01 (B)(10)(a).

Approved as to Legal Form
By Knox County Law Director 10/6/2023
/Gary T. Dupler/ Deputy Law Director