

Section J:

Knox County Board of Education

Students

Descriptor Term:

Home Schools

Descriptor Code:

J-130

Issued:

7/95

Reviewed:

9/20

Revised:

11/20

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2 A parent wishing to conduct a home school¹ shall meet the following requirements²:

- 3
4 1. Provide notice to the Director of Schools prior to each school year of the intent to conduct a home
5 school by completing an Intent to Home School form;
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7 2. Submit to the Director of Schools the name, number, age, grade level of children to be home
8 schooled, location of the school, curriculum to be offered, proposed hours of instruction,
9 qualifications of the parent-teacher, and a description of the course to be taught each year;
10
11 3. Maintain attendance records, subject to inspection of the local Director of Schools;
12
13 4. Submit attendance records to the Director of Schools at the end of the school year;
14
15 5. Provide instruction for at least four (4) hours per day for the same number of instructional days as
16 are required by state law for public schools;
17
18 6. Possess a high school diploma or GED;
19
20 7. Cooperate in the administration to home school students of appropriate tests by the Commissioner
21 of Education, his designee or by a professional testing service;
22
23 8. Take action according to state law if home school student falls behind appropriate grade level;
24
25 9. Submit proof of immunization to the Director of Schools that the home school student has been
26 vaccinated as required by law;
27
28 10. Submit proof to the Director of Schools that other health services and examinations as required
29 by law have been received by the home school student; and
30
31 11. In the event of illness or inadequacy of the home school parent-teacher to teach a specific subject,
32 employ a tutor having the same qualifications as required of parent-teacher.
33

34 If one or more of these requirements are not met, the Board authorizes the Director of Schools to take
35 formal action to bring the child into compliance with the Compulsory Attendance Law (until the child
36 has reached age 18),³ either in the home school or in a public, private or church-related school.
37

38 Public school facilities shall not be available for home school instruction.

39 The Director of Schools, through the Attendance Supervisor, shall have the attendance records of the
40 home school inspected at the end of each school year in order to provide assistance in implementing the
41 Compulsory Attendance Law.⁴
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If a home school student falls more than one (1) year behind his appropriate grade level in his comprehensive test score for two (2) consecutive tests, and if a certified teacher who would have taught the child at his grade level determines through appropriate means that the student is not learning disabled, the Director of Schools shall require the parents to enroll the child in a public, private or church-related school.⁵

A home school student shall be required to be enrolled in a Knox County high school a minimum of two semesters to be eligible for graduation and to receive a Knox County high school diploma.

Home school students transferring to a Knox County high school shall be tested for placement, and if appropriate, awarding of Carnegie units of credit. The Board of Education requires the tests used for students transferring from other (public) school systems or private schools to be administered to students transferring to the Knox County system from church-related schools and/or home school arrangements.⁶

Knox County Schools recognizes and respects the parents' right to homeschool; however, parent request for part-time access to Knox County Schools will be denied. Full-time attendance will be required of all students enrolled in Knox County unless determined otherwise by an Individual Education Plan decision.

ELIGIBILITY OF HOME SCHOOLED STUDENTS FOR PUBLIC SCHOOL JUNIOR RESERVE OFFICER TRAINING CORPS (JROTC)

As participants in the Tennessee Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps (JROTC), the Knox County Schools shall honor the National Defense Authorization Act of 2020 with respect to home school students' participation in JROTC Programs within public schools. Request for home school students inclusion into JROTC Programs will be on a case-by-case basis at the participating secondary institution where the student would be zoned.⁷

Legal References:

- 1. T.C.A. §49-6-3001(c).
- 2. T.C.A. § 49-6-3050(b).
- 3. Chapter 535 of the Public Acts of 1992, Section 81(2)(C).
- 4. T.C.A. § 49-6-3050(b)(2).
- 5. T.C.A. § 49-6-3050(b)(6)(C).
- 6. T.C.A. § 49-50-801 (c)(d).
- 7. National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2020, Pub. L. No 116-92. S. 1790, 116th Congress (2019).

Approved as to Legal Form
By Knox County Law Director 9/16/2020
/Gary T. Dupler/Deputy Law Director