

Section J:

Knox County Board of Education

Students

Descriptor Term:

Home Schools

Descriptor Code:

J-130

Issued:

7/95

Reviewed:

10/23

Revised:

12/23

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

1. Provide annual notice to the Director of Schools prior to each school year of the parent-teacher's intent to conduct a home school by completing an Intent to Home School form and, for purpose of reporting only, submission to the Director of Schools of the names, number, ages and grade levels of children to be home schooled, the location of the school, the proposed curriculum to be offered, the proposed hours of instruction and the qualifications of the parent-teacher;
2. Maintain attendance records, subject to inspection of the local Director of Schools;
3. Submit attendance records to the Director of Schools at the end of the school year;
4. Provide instruction for at least four (4) hours per day for the same number of instructional days as are required by state law for public schools;
5. Possess a high school diploma or GED;
6. Cooperate in the administration to home school students of appropriate tests by the Commissioner of Education, his designee or by a professional testing service;
7. Take action according to state law if home school student falls behind appropriate grade level;
8. Submit proof to the Director of Schools that other health services and examinations as required by law have been received by the home school student; and
9. In the event of illness or inadequacy of the home school parent-teacher to teach a specific subject, employ a tutor having the same qualifications as required of parent-teacher.

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

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

The Director of Schools, through the Attendance Supervisor, shall have the attendance records of the home school inspected at the end of each school year in order to provide assistance in implementing the Compulsory Attendance Law.⁴

If a home school student falls more than one (1) year behind his or her appropriate grade level in his or her comprehensive test score for two (2) consecutive tests, and if a certified teacher who would have taught the child at his or her grade level determines through appropriate means that the student is not

1 learning disabled, the Director of Schools may require the parents to enroll the child in a public, non-
2 public or church-related school.⁵

3
4 A home school student shall be required to be enrolled in a Knox County high school a minimum of two
5 semesters to be eligible for graduation and to receive a Knox County high school diploma.

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

11
12 Knox County Schools recognizes and respects the parents' right to homeschool; however, parent request
13 for part-time access to Knox County Schools will be denied. Full-time attendance will be required of all
14 students enrolled in Knox County unless determined otherwise by an Individual Education Plan decision.

15
16 **ELIGIBILITY OF HOME SCHOOLED STUDENTS FOR PUBLIC SCHOOL JUNIOR**
17 **RESERVE OFFICER TRAINING CORPS (JROTC)**

18
19 As participants in the Tennessee Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps (JROTC), the Knox County
20 Schools shall honor the National Defense Authorization Act of 2020 with respect to home school
21 students' participation in JROTC Programs within public schools. Request for home school students
22 inclusion into JROTC Programs will be on a case-by-case basis at the participating secondary institution
23 where the student would be zoned.⁷

24
25
26
27
28
29
30
31
32
33
34
35
36
37

38

Legal References:

- 39 1. T.C.A. §49-6-3001(c).
40 2. T.C.A. § 49-6-3050(b).
41 3. TRR/MS § 0520-07-02-.01.
42 4. T.C.A. § 49-6-3050(b)(2).
43 5. T.C.A. § 49-6-3050(b)(6)(C).
44 6. T.C.A. § 49-50-801 (e)(d).
45 7. National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2020, Pub. L. No 116-92. S. 1790, 116th Congress (2019).

46 Approved as to Legal Form
47 By Knox County Law Director 10/31/2023
48 /Gary T. Dupler/Deputy Law Director
49