

<b>Section J:</b>  <b>Students</b>	<b>Knox County Board of Education</b>		
	Descriptor Term:	Descriptor Code:	Issued:
	<b>Compulsory Attendance</b>	<b>J-122</b>	<b>7/95</b>
	<b>Ages</b>	Reviewed:	Revised:
		<b>6/17</b>	<b>10/17</b>

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Children between the ages of six (6) and seventeen (17) years, both inclusive, must attend a public or private school.<sup>1</sup> Under certain circumstances the Board may temporarily excuse students from complying with the provisions of the compulsory attendance law.<sup>2</sup> Pregnancy shall not constitute a reason to be exempted from compulsory school attendance.

Any child residing within the state, six (6) years of age on or before August 15 of the current school year, who makes application for admission shall be enrolled in the school designated by the Board.<sup>1</sup>

A child entering kindergarten shall be no less than five (5) years of age on or before August 15 of the current school term.<sup>3</sup> No child shall be eligible to enter first grade without having attended an approved kindergarten program.

Any transfer student applying for admission who was legally enrolled in an approved kindergarten in another state and who will be five (5) years of age no later than December 31 of the current school year, shall be enrolled.

A child entering a special education program shall be no less than three (3) years of age.<sup>1</sup>

The compulsory attendance law shall not apply to the following:<sup>1</sup>

1. Children mentally or physically incapacitated to perform school duties, such disabilities to be attested by a duly licensed physician in all cases;
2. Children who have complete high school and hold a high school diploma;
3. Children temporarily excused from attendance in school under rules and regulations promulgated by the state board of education, which rules and regulations shall not be in conflict with TCA § 49-6-3001.
4. Children six (6) years of age or under whose parent or guardian have filed a notice of intent to conduct a home school as provided by TCA § 49-6-3001 or who are conducting a home school as provided by TCA § 49-6-3050; and
5. Children who have attained their seventeenth (17<sup>th</sup>) 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.

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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 8/25/2017  
 By Knox County Law Director  
 /Gary T. Dupler/ Deputy Law Director