

Marion County Board of Education

Monitoring: Review: Annually, in April	Descriptor Term: Compulsory Attendance Ages	Descriptor Code: 6.201	Issued Date: 04/24/01
		Rescinds: 6.201	Issued: 12/15/97

1 Children between the ages of six (6) and seventeen (17) years, both inclusive, must attend a public or private
2 school.¹ A parent/guardian or legal custodian who believes that their child is not ready to attend school
3 at the designated age of mandatory attendance may make application to the principal of the public school
4 which the child would attend for a one (1) semester or one year deferral in required attendance. Any such
5 deferral shall be reported to the director of schools by the principal. Under certain circumstances the Board
6 may temporarily excuse students from complying with the provisions of the compulsory attendance law.²
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8 Any child residing within the state, six (6) years of age on or before September 30 of the current school
9 year, who makes application for admission shall be enrolled in the school designated by the Board.³
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11 A child entering kindergarten shall be no less than five (5) years of age on or before September 30 of the
12 current school term.⁴ No child shall be eligible to enter first grade without having attended an approved
13 kindergarten program.⁴
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15 A child entering a special education program shall be no less than three (3) years of age.⁵
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17 A person eighteen (18) years of age or older who applies for admission must have the application approved
18 by the principal and director of schools when:
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- 20 1. He/she fails to enroll within thirty (30) calendar days after school officially starts; or
- 21 2. He/she has dropped out of school and wants to re-enter.
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23 The compulsory attendance law shall not apply to the following:²
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- 25 1. A student who has received a diploma or other certificate of graduation;
- 26 2. A student who is enrolled and making satisfactory progress in a course leading to a GED; or
- 27 3. A student enrolled in a home school who has reached the age of seventeen (17).
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34 Legal References:

- 35 1. TCA 49-6-3001(c)(1);
- 36 *Covell v. State* (1920), 143 Tenn. 571, 227 S.W. 41
- 37 2. TCA 49-6-3005
- 38 3. TCA 49-6-3001(a); TCA 49-6-3001(b)(1)
- 39 4. TCA 49-6-201(3); TCA 49-6-201(8)(d); TRR/MS 0520-1-3-.03(10)
- 40 5. 20 U.S.C. Sec 5. 1400-1485
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Cross References:

- Special Education Program 4.202
- Adult Education Program 4.208
- Special Education Students 6.500