

Hancock County Board of Education

Monitoring: Review: Annually, in April	Descriptor Term: Compulsory Attendance Ages	Descriptor Code: 6.201	Issued Date: 08/06/15
		Rescinds:	Issued:

1 Children between the ages of six (6) and seventeen (17) years, both inclusive, must attend a public or
2 private school.¹ A parent/guardian or legal custodian who believes that their child is not ready to at-
3 tend school at the designated age of mandatory attendance may make application to the principal of the
4 public school which the child would attend for a one (1) semester or one year deferral in required at-
5 tendance. Any such deferral shall be reported to the director of schools by the principal.² Under certain
6 circumstances, the Board may temporarily excuse students from complying with the provisions of the
7 compulsory attendance law.³

8 Any child residing within the state who is or will be five (5) years of age on or before August 15, who
9 makes application for admission, shall be enrolled in the school designated by the Board.⁴

10 If a child will be five (5) years of age on or before September 30, such child's parent(s)/legal guardian(s)
11 may request that the child be admitted into kindergarten. Upon a request, the director of schools shall
12 administer an evaluation and examination. If the results indicate that the child is suffi-
13 emotionally and academically, then the child may be enrolled into kindergarten. The director of schools
14 shall develop procedures and forms to implement the provisions of this policy.⁴

15 No child shall be eligible to enter first grade without having attended an approved kindergarten program.⁵

16 A child entering a special education program shall be no less than three (3) years of age.⁶

17 A person eighteen (18) years of age or older who applies for admission must have the application ap-
18 proved by the principal and director of schools when:

- 19 1. He/she fails to enroll within thirty (30) calendar days after school officially starts; or
20 2. He/she has dropped out of school and wants to re-enter.

21 The compulsory attendance law shall not apply to the following:⁷

- 22 1. A student who has received a diploma or other certificate of graduation;
23 2. A student who is enrolled and making satisfactory progress in a course leading to a GED;
24 3. A student who is six (6) years or younger and whose parent or guardian has filed notice of intent
25 to conduct home school with the director of schools; or
26 4. A student enrolled in a home school who has reached the age of seventeen (17).
27

Legal References

1. TCA 49-6-3001 (c)(1)
2. TCA 49-6-3001 (c)(5)
3. TCA 49-6-3005
4. TCA 49-6-201 (b)(3); TCA 49-6-3001 (b)(1)
5. TCA 49-6-201 (8)(d)
6. 20 U.S.C. Sec 5. 1400-1485
7. TCA 49-6-3001 (c)(2)(A)-(D)

Cross References

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