

Bristol Tennessee City Schools

Descriptor Term:

Compulsory Attendance Ages

Descriptor Code:

6.201

Issued Date:

01/22/24

Rescinds:

6.201

Issued:

09/18/23

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

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

If a child will be five (5) years of age on or before September 30, such child's parent(s)/legal guardian(s) may request that the child be admitted into kindergarten⁵. Upon a request, the director of schools shall administer an evaluation and examination. If the results indicate that the child is sufficiently mature emotionally and academically, then the child may be enrolled into kindergarten. The director of schools shall develop procedures and forms to implement the provisions of this policy.⁴

No child shall be eligible to enter first grade without having attended an approved kindergarten program.⁵⁶

A child entering a special education program shall be no less than three (3) years of age.⁶⁻⁷

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

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

The compulsory attendance law shall not apply to the following:⁷⁸

1. A student who has received a diploma or other certificate of graduation;
2. A student who is enrolled and making satisfactory progress in a course leading to a GED, or a high school equivalency credential approved by the State Board of Education;
3. A student who is six (6) years or younger and whose parent or guardian has filed notice of intent to conduct home school with the director of schools; or
4. A student mentally or physically incapacitated to perform school duties, such disability to be attested by a duly licensed physician in all cases and approved by the director of schools;

5. 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 50-5-103 or any other law governing child labor in this state;³ or
6. A student enrolled in a home school who has reached the age of seventeen (17).

Legal References

1. [TCA 49-6-3001\(c\)\(1\)](#)
2. [TCA 49-6-3001\(c\)\(5\)](#)
3. [TCA 49-6-3005](#); [TCA 49-6-3001](#)
4. [TCA 49-6-201\(b\)\(3\)](#); [TCA 49-6-3001\(b\)\(1\)](#)
5. [TCA 49-6-3001\(b\)\(2\)\(B\)](#)
6. [TCA 49-6-201\(d\)](#)
7. [20 USCA § 1401\(3\)\(B\)](#)

Cross References

Special Education Program 4.202
Adult Education Program 4.208
Home Schools 6.202
School Admissions 6.203
Special Education Students 6.500