

Polk County Board of Education

Monitoring: Review: Annually, in April	Descriptor Term: Compulsory Attendance Ages	Descriptor Code: 6.201	Issued Date: 04/09/01
		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 attend
3 school at the designated age of mandatory attendance may make application to the principal of the public
4 school which the child would attend for a one (1) semester or one year deferral in required attendance.
5 Any such deferral shall be reported to the superintendent by the principal. Under certain circumstances
6 the Board may temporarily excuse students from complying with the provisions of the compulsory
7 attendance law.²

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

10 A child entering kindergarten shall be no less than five (5) years of age on or before September 30 of the
11 current school term.⁴ No child shall be eligible to enter first grade without having attended an approved
12 kindergarten program.⁴

13 A child entering a special education program shall be no less than three (3) years of age.⁵

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

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

18 The compulsory attendance law shall not apply to the following:²

- 19 1. A student who has received a diploma or other certificate of graduation;
- 20 2. A student who is enrolled and making satisfactory progress in a course leading to a GED; or
- 21 3. A student enrolled in a home school who has reached the age of seventeen (17).

Legal References:

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

Cross References:

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