

MORGAN COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

COMPULSORY ATTENDANCE AGES

**Descriptor
Code:
JBA**

**Issued Date:
09/08/98**

Children between the ages of six (6) and seventeen (17) years, both inclusive, must attend a public or private school.¹ A parent/guardian or legal custodian who believes that 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 superintendent by the principal. Under certain circumstances, the Board may temporarily excuse students from complying with the provisions of the compulsory attendance law.²

Any child residing within the state, six (6) years of age on or before September 30 of the current school year, who makes application for admission shall be enrolled in the school designated by the Board.³

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

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

A person eighteen (18) years of age or older who applies for admission must have the application approved by the principal and superintendent 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:²

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
3. A student enrolled in a home school who has reached the age of seventeen (17).

Legal Reference:

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(9)(d); TRR/MS 0520-1-3-.03(10)(a).
5. 20 U.S.C. Sec 5. 1400-1485.

Cross References:

- Special Education Program 4.2015
Adult Education Program 4.208
Special Education Students 6.500