

# Wilson County Board of Education

Policy Description:

Compulsory Attendance Ages

Page 1 or 2

Policy Number:

6.201

Amended Date:

06/04/07

Rescinds:

400-IA1

Issued: 08/96

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

7  
8 Any child residing within the state, six (6) years of age on or before September 30 of the current school year,  
9 who makes application for admission shall be enrolled in the school designated by the Board.<sup>3</sup>

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

14  
15 A child entering a special education program shall be no less than three (3) years of age.<sup>5</sup>

16  
17 A person eighteen (18) years of age or older who applies for admission must have the application approved by  
18 the principal and the director of schools when:

- 19  
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.

22  
23 The compulsory attendance law shall not apply to the following:<sup>6</sup>

- 24  
25 1. A student who has received a diploma or other certificate of graduation;

<sup>1</sup> TCA 49-6-3001(c)(1); Covell vs. State (1920), 143 Tenn. 571, 227 S.W. 41

<sup>2</sup> TCA 49-6-3005

<sup>3</sup> TCA 49-6-3001(a); TCA 49-6-3001(b)(1)

<sup>4</sup> TCA 49-6-201(3); TCA 49-6-201(8)(d); TRR/MS 0520-1-3-.03(10)

<sup>5</sup> 20 U.S.C. Sec. 5. 1400-1485

<sup>6</sup> TCA 49-6-3005

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

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