Hickman County Board of Education

	Descriptor Term: **Home Schools**	Descriptor Code: **6.202**	Issued Date: **03/06/23**
		Rescinds: **6.202**	Issued: **08/02/21**

A "home school" is a school conducted or directed by parent or parents or legal guardian or guardians for their own children. Home schools which teach K-12 where the parents are associated with an organization that conducts church-related schools *(as defined by §49-50-801)* which are supervised by such organization and which administer standardized achievement tests at the same time tests are given in their regular day schools are exempt from the following provisions, but must follow procedures issued by the State Department of Education.[1]

A parent wishing to conduct a home school shall meet the following requirements:[2]

1. Provide annual notice to the director of schools before the commencement of each school year of the intent to conduct a home school;

2. Submit to the director of schools the name, number, age, grade level of children involved, location of the school, curriculum to be offered, proposed hours of instruction, qualifications of the parent/teacher, whether a college preparatory or general course of education will be taught in grades 9-12, and a description of the courses to be taught each year;

3. Maintain attendance records, subject to inspection of the local director of schools;

4. Submit attendance records to the director of schools at the end of each school year;

5. Provide instruction for at least four (4) hours per day for the same number of instructional days as are required by state law for public schools;[3]

6. ~~Possess a high school diploma, GED, or HiSET;~~[4] Possess a high school diploma or a high school equivalency credential approved by the State Board of Education;[4]

7. Cooperate in the administration to home school students of appropriate tests by the Commissioner of Education, his/her designee or by a professional testing service;

8. Take action according to state law if home school student falls behind appropriate grade level;

9. ~~Submit proof to the director of schools that the home school student has been vaccinated as required by law;~~[5]

10. Submit proof to the director of schools that other health services and examinations as required by law have been received by the home school student; and

11. In the event of illness or inadequacy of the home school parent-teacher to teach a specific subject, employ a tutor having the same qualifications as required of parent/teacher.

If one or more of these requirements are not met, the Board authorizes the director of schools to take formal action to bring the child into compliance with the Compulsory Attendance Law (until the child has reached age 17), either in the home school or in a public, private or church-related school.

It shall be the policy of this Board that public school facilities shall be available for home school instruction only when *all* of the following conditions exist:

1. Special needs courses are being taught which require services unavailable to the home school student;

2. These services cannot be provided through any means other than the public schools;

3. Requests for services are made known by the home school parent when notice is given to the director of schools of the intent to conduct a home school;

4. The director of schools investigates request and make recommendations to the Board;

5. No overcrowding, additional expenses, including providing transportation, or other special situations which interfere with the normal operation of the school system shall be incurred; and

6. Approval by the Board on a case-by-case basis.

The director of schools, through the attendance supervisor, shall have the attendance records of the home school inspected at least two (2) times each school year in order to provide assistance in implementing the Compulsory Attendance Law.

Student Performance[6]

If a home school student falls more than one (1) year behind his appropriate grade level in his/her comprehensive test score for two (2) consecutive tests, and if a certified teacher who would have taught the child at his/her grade level determines through appropriate means that the student is not learning disabled, the director of schools shall require the parents to enroll the child in a public, private or church-related school.

Legal References

1. TCA 49-50-801(a)
2. TCA 49-6-3050(b)
3. TCA 49-6-3004(a); TCA 49-6-3050(b)(3)
4. TCA 49-6-3050(b)(4); Public Acts of 2023, Chapter No. 114
5. TCA 49-6-3050(b)(6)

Cross References

Compulsory Attendance Ages 6.201