

# Shelby County Board of Education

## COMPULSORY ATTENDANCE

6012

Issued Date: 06/11/13

### I. PURPOSE

To ensure compliance with state laws, rules and regulations regarding school attendance and compulsory attendance ages.

### II. SCOPE

This policy applies to Shelby County Schools students.

### III. POLICY STATEMENT

#### Compulsory Attendance Ages

Children between the ages of six (6) and seventeen (17), both inclusive, must attend a public or non-public school.<sup>1</sup> The principal shall be responsible for the initial placement of students entering school for the first time. 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 superintendent (or designee) for a one (1) semester or one year deferral in required attendance. Any such deferral shall be communicated to the principal of the school that the child would have attended. In accordance with the provisions outlined in the state law, the Board may temporarily excuse students from complying with the provisions of the compulsory attendance law.<sup>2</sup>

#### Attendance Provisions for Students of Military Parents

##### Kindergarten and First Grade

Kindergarten and first grade students of military parents shall be allowed to continue their enrollment commensurate with their grade level from the sending state at the

time of transition, regardless of age. If a student has satisfactorily completed the prerequisite grade level in the sending school district, the student shall be eligible for enrollment in the next highest grade level, regardless of age. Students who transfer after the start of the school year shall enter school on the students' validated level from the sending state.

## Records

In accordance with the Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children, military parents may present their child's unofficial or hand-carried education record when transferring their child. SCS shall enroll and appropriately place students of military parents based on the information provided in the unofficial records pending validation by the official records. SCS shall request, as quickly as possible, the official records of the child from the school in the sending state.

## Course and Program Placement

When students of military parents transfer before or during the school year, SCS shall initially honor placement of the student based on educational assessments and the student's enrollment in educational courses from the sending state, if the courses are offered. The district may perform subsequent evaluations to ensure appropriate placement and continued enrollment of the student in the course. Course placement includes, but is not limited to, Honors, International Baccalaureate, Advanced Placement, vocational, technical and career pathways courses. District administration may also waive course prerequisites or other preconditions for placement in courses offered under its jurisdiction.

Additionally, SCS shall initially honor placement of students in educational programs based on current assessments conducted at the sending school or participation/placement in like programs in the sending state. Such programs include, but are not limited to, Gifted and Talented Programs and English as a Second Language (ESL) programs. SCS also shall initially provide comparable services to students with disabilities based on their IEPs and, in accordance with all applicable laws, shall make reasonable accommodations and modifications to address the students' needs subject to a student's existing 504 or Title II Plan in order to provide the student with equal access to education. The district may perform subsequent

evaluations to ensure appropriate placement of the student. District administration may also waive program prerequisites or other preconditions for placement in programs offered under its jurisdiction.

#### **IV. RESPONSIBILITY**

A. The Superintendent (or designee) is responsible for implementing this policy.

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 49-6-201(3); TCA 49-6-201(8)(d);  
TRR/MS 0520-1-3-.03(10)
5. TCA 49-6-3001(a); TCA 49-6-3001(b)(1)
6. TCA 49-6-201
7. TCA 49-6-201(d)
8. TCA 49-10-1101
9. Title 49, Chapter 12, Part 3 - Part Interstate