

ARKANSAS DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
RULES AND REGULATIONS
ARKANSAS COMPULSORY ATTENDANCE REQUIREMENTS
Amended August 1999

1.00 Arkansas Compulsory Attendance Requirements

1.01 These regulations shall be known as the Arkansas Department of Education Regulations Governing the Arkansas School Compulsory Attendance Requirements.

1.02 The State Board of Education enacted these regulations pursuant to its authority under Arkansas Code Annotated §§6-18-201 and 6-18-207, as amended by Act 570 of 1999.

2.00 Purpose of Regulations

2.01 The purpose of these regulations is to establish age requirements for compulsory school attendance.

2.02 These regulations establish the dates for implementation of the Arkansas School Compulsory Attendance Requirements.

2.03 These regulations identify exceptions to the Arkansas School Compulsory Attendance Requirements.

3.00 Age Requirements for Compulsory School Attendance

3.01 For the 1999-2000 school year only, any child who has been enrolled in an “instructional program” may enroll the child in kindergarten if the child will attain the age of five (5) on or before October 1, 1999. An “instructional program” is one that promotes the educational development of the child in the home, center and/or school-based setting(s). Local school districts shall have the discretion to decide what constitutes an “instructional program” within their community.

3.02 Beginning with the 2000-2001 school year every parent, guardian, or other person residing within the State of Arkansas having custody or charge of any child age five (5) through seventeen (17) years on or before September 15 of that year shall enroll and send the child to a public, private, or parochial school, or provide a home school for the child.

3.03 Any parent, guardian, or other person having custody or charge of the child electing not to enroll their eligible child in the public school kindergarten program must file a signed kindergarten waiver form with the local district administration

office. On filing the kindergarten waiver form, the child shall not be required to attend kindergarten in that school year. However, any six year old child who has not completed a state accredited kindergarten program prior to public school enrollment shall be evaluated by the school district to determine whether placement for the child shall be in kindergarten or the first grade.

3.04 Any student who has been enrolled in a state-accredited kindergarten program in another state for a period of not less than sixty (60) days, who will become five (5) years old during the school year in which he/she is enrolled in kindergarten, and whose parents or guardians establish domicile in a public school district may be enrolled in kindergarten upon written request of the student's parents or guardians.

4.00 Exceptions to the Age Requirements for Compulsory School Attendance

4.01 Any child age sixteen (16) or above enrolled in a post secondary vocational-technical institution, a community college, or a two-year or four-year institution of higher education is not subject to the attendance requirement.

4.02 Any child age sixteen (16) or above enrolled in an adult education program or in the National Guard Youth Challenge Program is not subject to the attendance requirement.

4.03 Any child age sixteen (16) or above enrolled in an adult education program prior to June 13, 1994, under a waiver granted by the local school district, and currently attending the program, is not subject to the attendance requirement.