

**RULES
OF
THE STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION**

**CHAPTER 0520-04-03
ADMINISTRATIVE RULES
STATE SPECIAL SCHOOLS**

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0520-04-03-.01 STANDARDS OF ELIGIBILITY FOR ADMISSION TO THE TENNESSEE SCHOOL FOR THE BLIND.

- (1) Students ages three (3) through twenty-one (21) who are residents of the state of Tennessee and who have a visual impairment, including both partial sight and blindness, even with correction, that adversely affects the student's educational performance shall be eligible for admission to the Tennessee School for the Blind.
- (2) A student who meets one (1) or more of the following visual impairments may be eligible for admission to the Tennessee School for the Blind:
 - (a) Visual acuity in the better eye or both with best possible correction:
 1. Legal blindness – 20/200 or less at distance and/or near; or
 2. Low vision – 20/70 or less at distance and/or near.
 - (b) Visual field restriction with both eyes:
 1. Legal blindness – remaining visual field of 20 degrees or less;
 2. Low vision – remaining visual field of 60 degrees or less; or
 3. Medical and educational documentation of progressive loss of vision, which may in the future affect the student's ability to learn visually.
 - (c) Other visual impairment, not perceptual in nature, resulting from a medically documented condition. (i.e. cortical visual impairment)
- (3) Students who have disabilities in addition to visual impairment shall be eligible for admission to the Tennessee School for the Blind.
- (4) The Director of Schools for the Tennessee School for the Blind may admit students who meet the eligibility criteria, provided:
 - (a) The student has been evaluated and referred by his or her Individual Education Program (IEP) team, that includes a representative from the Tennessee School for the Blind, for services at the school as the most appropriate placement within the least restrictive environment;

(Rule 0520-04-03-.01, continued)

- (b) The Tennessee School for the Blind has a program designed to meet the child's needs; and
- (c) A complete ophthalmological report for the student has been submitted.

Authority: T.C.A. §§ 49-10-701 and 49-10-801. **Administrative History:** Original rule filed August 26, 1986; effective November 29, 1986. Repeal and new rule filed March 16, 1992; effective June 29, 1992. Amendments filed April 4, 2018; effective July 3, 2018.

0520-04-03-.02 STANDARDS OF ELIGIBILITY FOR ADMISSION TO THE TENNESSEE SCHOOL FOR THE DEAF AND WEST TENNESSEE SCHOOL FOR THE DEAF.

- (1) Students ages three (3) through twenty-one (21) who are residents of Tennessee and who have a hearing impairment that is so significant that the child is impaired in processing linguistic information through hearing, with or without amplification, that adversely affects a child's educational performance, shall be eligible for admission to the Tennessee School for the Deaf and West Tennessee School for the Deaf.
- (2) A student who meets one (1) or more of the following hearing impairments may be eligible for admission to the Tennessee School for the Deaf or West Tennessee School for the Deaf:
 - (a) A permanent or fluctuating hearing threshold level evidenced by:
 - 1. An unaided hearing threshold level of 30 dB or greater based on the pure tone average of 500, 1000, and 2000 Hz in the better ear;
 - 2. A high frequency hearing threshold level of 30 dB or greater based on the pure tone average of 1000, 2000 and 3000 Hz;
 - 3. An unilateral hearing threshold level of 30 dB or greater, based on the pure tone average of 500, 1000, and 2000 Hz unaided; or
 - 4. An auditory evoked potential response evidencing permanent hearing loss at multiple frequencies equivalent to or in excess of the decibel hearing loss threshold criteria for pure tone audiometric testing specified above.
 - (b) A hearing threshold that interferes with progress in developmental skills or academic performance, social-emotional development, or linguistic and communicative skills.
 - (c) An inability to discriminate speech within the normal range, or a medical condition that prevents the child from processing spoken language auditorially in spite of normal hearing.
 - (d) Evidence of genetic deafness history in the student's family and early identification of progressive hearing loss.
- (3) Students with disabilities in addition to a hearing impairment shall be eligible for admission to the Tennessee School for the Deaf and West Tennessee School for the Deaf.
- (4) The Director of Schools for the Tennessee School for the Deaf and West Tennessee School for the Deaf may admit students who meet the eligibility criteria, provided:
 - (a) The student has been evaluated and referred by his or her Individual Education Program (IEP) team, that includes a representative from the Tennessee School for the Deaf or West Tennessee School for the Deaf, for services at the school as the most appropriate placement within the least restrictive environment; and

(Rule 0520-04-03-.02, continued)

- (b) The school has a program designed to meet the child's needs and has space available.

Authority: T.C.A. §§ 49-10-701, 49-10-901, and 49-10-902. **Administrative History:** Original rule filed August 26, 1986; effective November 29, 1986. Repeal and new rule filed March 16, 1992; effective June 29, 1992. Amendments filed April 4, 2018; effective July 3, 2018.

0520-04-03-.03 DUTY-FREE LUNCH AT STATE SPECIAL SCHOOLS.

- (1) All teachers, grades kindergarten (K) through twelve (12), shall have a duty-free lunch period of at least the length of the student lunch period.
- (2) During the duty-free lunch period teachers shall have no other assigned responsibilities.

Authority: T.C.A. § 49-1-302(e)(2). **Administrative History:** Original rule filed March 16, 1992; effective June 29, 1992. Amendments filed April 4, 2018; effective July 3, 2018.