

**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 (Student) and who have a visual impairment, including either partial sight or 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 shall 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. (For example, but not limited to 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 shall 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, upon the IEP team's determination that the Tennessee School for the Blind will provide the student a free appropriate public education in the student's least restrictive environment;

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

- (b) A complete ophthalmological report for the student has been submitted; and
  - (c) The student meets the criteria in Tennessee School for the Blind Policy 6.2030, School Admissions and Enrollment.
- (5) The student's district of origin and the Tennessee School for the Blind shall annually sign a placement agreement outlining the responsibilities of the district of origin and the responsibilities of Tennessee School for the Blind regarding the student's free and appropriate public education and services provided pursuant to the student's IEP.
- (6) Student admittance to the Tennessee School for the Blind residential program shall be based on the school's Policy 3.7000, Residential Program.

**Authority:** T.C.A. §§ 49-10-701, 49-10-801, and 49-50-1001, et seq. **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. Amendments filed April 7, 2021; effective July 6, 2021.

**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 the state of Tennessee (Student) 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 shall 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 auditorily in spite of normal hearing.
  - (d) Evidence of genetic deafness history in the student's family and early identification of progressive hearing loss.

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

- (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 shall 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, upon the IEP team's determination that the Tennessee School for the Deaf or West Tennessee School for the Deaf will provide the student a free appropriate public education in the student's least restrictive environment; and
  - (b) The student meets the criteria in the Tennessee Schools for the Deaf Policy 6.2030, School Admissions and Enrollment.
- (5) The student's district of origin and the Tennessee School for the Deaf or West Tennessee School for the Deaf shall annually sign a placement agreement that outlines the responsibilities of the district of origin and Tennessee School for the Deaf or West Tennessee School for the Deaf regarding the student's free and appropriate public education and services provided pursuant to the student's IEP.
- (6) Student admittance to the Tennessee School for the Deaf residential program shall be based on the school's Policy 3.7000, Residential Program.

**Authority:** T.C.A. §§ 49-10-701, 49-10-901, 49-10-902, and 49-50-1001, et seq. **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. Amendments filed April 7, 2021; effective July 6, 2021.

#### **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.