

TACS Guidelines for Satellite Home School [K-12*]

(Revised)

The Tennessee Association of Christian Schools supports the concept of home schools. We believe that parents should have the right to educate their children at home. We further believe that the State of Tennessee should guarantee by law this right and that home school parents are obligated to provide a quality education for their children.

The Tennessee Association of Christian Schools also supports the cause of Satellite Home Schools under the auspices of Tennessee Association of Christian Schools member schools in accordance with Tennessee State Law (TCA 49-6-3050 and 49-50-801) and the following guidelines. Each TACS member school maintains its own privileges and rights in determining whether it will participate as a sponsoring school.

Accountability is a part of credibility. Satellite Home Schools must be accountable to the sponsoring school in like manner that member schools are to the Tennessee Association of Christian Schools. The accountability requirements promulgated by the Tennessee Association of Christian Schools should encourage Satellite Home School parents to be associated with TACS, an organization that places a premium on academic quality by way of accountability.

The following guidelines are based upon the existing Home School law (*TCA-49-6-3050*). Additional guidelines have been added for the purpose of enhancing the accountability relationship between the Satellite Home School and the sponsoring TACS school. Since the sponsoring school will serve as a support group to Satellite Home Schools, services and on-site opportunities will be extended in accordance to the sponsoring school's facilities, programs, philosophy, and school policies.

Satellite Home School Guidelines

1. A "Satellite Home School" is a school conducted by parent(s) or legal guardian(s) for their own children in kindergarten (KS) through grade eight (8). [49-6-3050]
2. The number of instructional days shall meet or exceed the number of days required by state law. Presently, the minimum requirement is 180 days. [49-50-801]
3. The number of instructional hours shall meet or exceed four (4) hours per day. [49-6-3050]
4. The member school [*hereafter referred to as sponsoring school*] of the Tennessee Association of Christian Schools [*hereafter referred to as TACS*] shall establish written Satellite Home School policies which state the relationship of Satellite Home Schools to the sponsoring school and the monitoring and evaluative procedures established by the sponsoring school. [TACS]
5. The name, address, and number of Satellite Home School students [*hereafter referred to as students*], and the phone number of the Satellite Home School must be submitted by the sponsoring school to TACS by October 1 of each school year. [TACS]
6. The maintenance of attendance records, subject to inspection of the sponsoring school, and the submission of these records to the sponsoring school at the end of each school year is required by the home school's parents [*hereafter referred to as parent-teacher*]. [49-6-3050]
7. A written financial agreement between the Satellite Home School and the sponsoring school must be on file at the sponsoring school's location site. Students will be included in the sponsoring school's TACS membership enrollment. [TACS]

* Expanded to include Twelfth grade; based on Legislature Mandate.

8. The parent-teacher must submit the name, number, age, and grade level of students involved, the location of the school, the curriculum to be offered, the proposed hours of instruction, and the qualifications of the parent-teacher at the time students are enrolled in the sponsoring school. Information contained in such reports may be used only for record keeping and other purposes for which similar information on day school students may be used in accordance with guidelines, rules, and regulations of the sponsoring school. [49-6-3050]
9. Testing: Students shall be tested in grades two (2), five (5), and seven (7) by the member sponsoring school. The Stanford Achievement Test, or TACS approved standardized achievement test, must be administered at the same time the sponsoring school tests their “day school” students. If a student falls three (3) to six (6) months behind his appropriate grade level, a consultation between the parents, the teacher in the corresponding grade level of the sponsoring school, and the school administrator of the sponsoring school shall be required.
 - a. All test results from the sponsoring school shall be provided to the parent-teacher.
 - b. A consultation visit between the sponsoring school and the parent-teacher is required if the student falls three (3) to six (6) months behind his appropriate grade level, based on the standardized test administered by the sponsoring school. [49-6-3050]
 - c. If a student falls six (6) to nine (9) months behind the appropriate grade level in reading, language arts, mathematics or science test scores or such of these areas, regardless of the term used on the test, as are actually tested for the student’s grade level, based on the standardized test required by the sponsoring school, the parent-teacher shall design a remedial course to help the child obtain his appropriate grade level. [49-6-3050]
 - d. If a student falls more than one (1) year behind the appropriate grade level in his comprehensive test score for two (2) consecutive tests based on the standardized test required by the sponsoring school and if the student is not learning disabled in the opinion of the sponsoring school, the sponsoring school may require the parents to enroll the student in a public, private, or church-related school, and the parent-teacher shall have all rights provided by law to respond to this requirement. [49-6-3050]
 - e. If a test indicates that a student is one (1) year or more behind his appropriate grade level, the same test shall be administered to the student not more than one (1) year later, notwithstanding the required testing schedule of the sponsoring school. [49-6-3050]
10. The parent-teacher must have high school diploma or GED. [49-6-3050]
11. A parent-teacher must attend six (6) hours of approved inservice training each school year. Inservice training must be approved by the sponsoring school. [TACS]
12. Students shall be eligible to participate in “selected” TACS functions; however, eligibility must be approved by the sponsoring school. Participation will be under the umbrella of the sponsoring school. [TACS]
13. Students must live within a reasonable driving distance of the sponsoring school. [TACS]
14. The sponsoring school reserves the right to announced home visits. Announcement (day and time) of an on- site home visit must be mutually approved by the parent-teacher and the sponsoring school with a minimum of a two-day advance notice. [TACS]

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