

*5 Point Learning Academy Handbook*



*Parent/Teacher/Student  
Handbook*

Revised January 2021 ©

## **WELCOME**

Welcome to the 5 Point Learning Academy Satellite Program where we believe that the World is Your Classroom and You are the Stars. Learning should be fun for the student and teacher, not a grueling and stressful experience. At 5PLA you, the parent/teacher, get to teach your child the way you choose in the comfort of your own home, yard, or where ever you choose, and at the time of day that you choose. As long as you get in at least four (4) hours per day for a total of 180 days between July 1 and June 30 of each year.

When you enroll with 5PLA, your child is actually enrolled in a private school so there is no need register as a homeschooler, even though you get to “homeschool.” There are more details on this in this Handbook.

Unlike most Category IV Schools, we do not care what your religious choice is and will not ask. We will have non-Christian material available for those that want it.

We hope this will be a wonderful and fun learning experience for you.

Blessed Be!

Rev. Shari B Yetto, HPs  
Headmaster/Principal/Administrator

# Contents

<b>About Us .....</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>School’s standards of behavior .....</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>Legal Information .....</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>Immunization .....</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>Enrollment Steps .....</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>High School Students: .....</b>	<b>19</b>
<b>Receiving You Diploma .....</b>	<b>25</b>
<b>Driver’s Student Permit or Intermediate License .....</b>	<b>26</b>
<b>High School Transcript .....</b>	<b>28</b>
<b>HomeSchool Methods .....</b>	<b>29</b>
<b>More Legal Codes .....</b>	<b>36</b>
<b>Jeter Memorandum .....</b>	<b>38</b>
<b>TACRS (TN Associate of Church Related Schools).....</b>	<b>42</b>

## **About Us**

### **The 5 Point Learning Academy - Satellite Program**

Located in Jackson, Tennessee (between Memphis and Nashville), Temple of the Ancient Ones has been serving The Community in various Community Outreach Programs since founded, February 1, 2011 We now have chosen to incorporate a K-12 Church related School, HomeSchool Satellite Program. Your child will actually be enrolled in our school so you do not have to register your child as being HomeSchooled, though you will be teaching them at home just the same. One day we plan to have a physical school as well.

### **Vision**

A world of free thinking individuals that express themselves through creativity and compassion, and are able to make logical, thought-through decisions for their future.

### **Mission**

Aiding parents in being the best teachers they can be and helping children to learn real world lessons so that they may become productive adults in the community.

## **Inclusivity Statement**

We do not discriminate against anyone based on religion, sexual orientation, race, ethnicity, national origin, gender, ability, or for any other reason, ever. If you would like to be a member of a community that includes all and believes that diversity brings strength, you are at the right place.

## **Educational Philosophy**

Our educational philosophy begins with the belief that all people have a natural desire to learn and grow, and that all aspects of life are a part of a person's education.

That parents/guardians make the best teachers as they are with the child more than anyone else and they know better how their child learns and at what pace.

Our goal is helping all children develop their unique strengths and overcome their unique challenges in their own way.

We believe that individuals will learn better in, and from, a diverse community rather than locked in a classroom for eight hours a day with information thrown at them at a pace that some may not be able to learn from.

We believe that our differences are resources. Children should be taught to listen to others and honor each other's voice. They should speak to express ourselves and listen to learn from each other.

We should use cooperation, instead of competition as a teaching model. Intimidation and authoritarian means of implementing learning should

### *5 Point Learning Academy Handbook*

not part of the learning process, so there is freedom to be who they are without feeling judged.

Children should be encouraged to pursue their learning, in a relaxed setting full of encouragement and with a variety of resources.

The world is a great source of learning fundamentals, such as, science, math, technology, social science, and communication arts like: languages, music and other art forms, as well as social, emotional, and practical skills, in fun and creative ways.

We are a spiritual learning community that sees everything as interconnected and believe that we should all be kind to ourselves, each other, our communities, and our Mother Earth. We respect all religious beliefs and faiths including Christian, Atheism and Agnosticism, and require no statement of faith of any kind.

### **Organizational Structure**

We are here to provide a service and aid parents and guardians/ caregivers the assistance that they need to teach their children at home legally and use curriculum approved only by them and to teach at a pace acceptable to each individual child.

## *5 Point Learning Academy Handbook*

### **What the school expects from parent/teachers and students**

The Satellite school expects that parents/guardians will fairly grade the work that the child is doing and submit those grades to the school in a timely manner. Testing will be available and recommended but not mandatory. We also expect students to do their best and obtain a proper education.

### **In cases where students are not making adequate academic progress**

Notice will be sent to the parents requesting them to change the curriculum or seek tutoring for the betterment of the child's education. If the parents do not make proper changes then the child will not be able to move up to the next grade level. All grades will be reported at the lower grade level for another year.

### **School's standards of behavior**

- 1. All fees will be paid on time**
- 2. All required documents will be submitted on time**
- 3. True attendance and grades will be submitted on time**
- 4. No form of Bullying to anyone else in the program including the student by the parent/teacher**
- 5. That the parent/guardian will properly teach their child/student and that the student/child will do the work and that a learning environment will be provided**

*5 Point Learning Academy Handbook*

**Disciplinary procedures for violations the above standards of behavior**

Written notice of the violation will be sent to the parent/guardian to be corrected. If there are special circumstances, contact the administrator and discuss the issues.

**Disciplinary action and removal from the program**

**We wish is to not have remove anyone from the program but things do happen. The following will be cause to be removed from the program:**

- 1. Failure to pay for your registration or enrollment fees**
- 2. Failure to submit all required documents**
- 3. Failure to submit attendance and grades**
- 4. Falsifying any documents**
- 5. Any form of Bullying to anyone else in the program**
- 6. Any further reasons that may come up in the future.**

**There will be a written notice given of intent to remove and a chance to correct the issue. If still not corrected by the time limit given, then removal from the program will proceed and your County School District will be notified that your child is no longer enrolled in this school.**

## **Legal Information**

The 5 Point Learning Academy - Satellite Program is recognized by the Tennessee Department of Education as a Category IV Exempted School (a.k.a. Church-related school), operating under TACRS and *Temple of the Ancient Ones, a 501(c)3 Non-Profit Church*. The Temple of the Ancient Ones founded *The 5 Point Learning Academy - Satellite Program Satellite Program* as an umbrella for home and community based students (a.k.a. HomeSchoolers).

“This school is classified by the Tennessee Department of Education as a “Category IV Church-Related School” and is exempt from accreditation requirements per TCA 49-50-801. As such, students transferring to public or accredited private schools may be subject to testing for grade level placement [or to determine what credits will be accepted in the case of high school student]. Students graduating from Category IV schools, although often accepted at colleges and universities may also be subject to additional testing requirements in order to be accepted.”

Please note: *As a Tennessee non-public school, enrollment in our program meets the compulsory attendance laws for the state of Tennessee. We do not assert that enrollment in our program meets the compulsory attendance and/or HomeSchool requirements in other states. It is the parent / guardian’s responsibility to meet the requirements of the state in which the student resides, if they do not reside in Tennessee.*

We are very excited to be able to offer an alternative for *HomeSchool* families that, for whatever reason, are not comfortable registering with their Local Educational Agency (LEA) or with a denominational Church Related School (CRS). We require no statement of faith and are not interested in mandating curriculum or any other decisions. We believe

### ***5 Point Learning Academy Handbook***

in responsive education matched to the needs, interests, and experiences of individual children. And we believe that the adults best able to negotiate curriculum with children are the adults spending time with those children on a daily basis.

Registration and enrollment fees cover basic administrative processing and services including HomeSchool Reporting and record keeping, access to all available services, 5 Point Learning Academy diploma or certificate of attendance, ID cards, transcripts, Tennessee driver's license proof of attendance, and progress letter. *Additional fees may apply for services such as curriculum consultation, assessment review, portfolio planning and review, testing, tutoring, and printed materials that could otherwise be obtained online. Any other services that may become available in the future.*

Enrollment is open all year. Our school year runs from July 1 - June 30 allowing 365 days to schedule and log the Tennessee mandated minimum requirement of 180 days of attendance with at least four hours of learning per day. Attendance under our program begins no earlier than your enrollment date with us and ends on June 30. You may schedule and log weekends and holidays. We enroll out-of-state families; however, enrollment may not satisfy the compulsory attendance and/or HomeSchool laws in other states or nations. That is up to the parent/guardian to determine. All grades and attendance records must be submitted at least twice per year by December 31st and June 30th of each year, earlier if available. Preferred is by the 5th of the month following each quarter so that we can prepare our reports to turn in.

## **Immunization**

This is not legal or medical advice advocating that one should or should not immunize, delay immunization, or refuse immunization. We provide the information below as a starting point for each family's research.

49-6-5001. General provisions. —

(a) The commissioner of health is authorized, subject to the approval of the public health council, to designate diseases against which children must be immunized prior to attendance at **any school**, nursery school, kindergarten, preschool or child care facility of Tennessee.

(b) (1) It is the responsibility of the parents or guardian of children to have their children immunized, as required by subsection (a).

(2) In the absence of an epidemic or immediate threat thereof, this section shall not apply to any child whose parent or guardian shall file with school authorities a signed, written statement that such immunization and other preventive measures conflict with the parent's or guardian's religious tenets and practices, affirmed under the penalties of perjury.

(c) (1) No children shall be permitted to attend any public school, nursery school, kindergarten, preschool or child care facility until proof of immunization is given the admissions officer of the school, nursery school, kindergarten, preschool or child care facility except as provided in subsection (b).

(2) No child shall be denied admission to any school or school facility if such child has not been immunized due to medical reasons if such child has a written statement from the child's doctor excusing the child from such immunization.

*5 Point Learning Academy Handbook*

(3) No child or youth determined to be homeless shall be denied admission to any school or school facility, if the child or youth has not yet been immunized or is unable to produce immunization records due to being homeless. The enrolling school shall comply with any and all federal laws pertaining to the educational rights of homeless children and youth, including the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act, 42 U.S.C. § 1141 et seq.

(d) Each child attending any school, nursery school, kindergarten, preschool or child care facility without furnishing proof of immunization or exception under subsection (b) and/or (e), shall not be counted in the average daily attendance of students for the distribution of state school funds.

(e) Any immunization specified hereunder shall not be required if a qualified physician shall certify that administration of such immunization would be in any manner harmful to the child involved.

(f) The commissioner shall promulgate rules and regulations necessary to carry out this section.

(g) By October 1 of each year, the commissioner shall report the number of children in the state during the preceding school year who were determined to be homeless and who enrolled in public schools without being immunized or being able to produce immunization records and the average length of time required for these children to be immunized or to obtain their immunization records. The report shall be submitted to the education committees of the senate and of the house of representatives.

[Acts 1967, ch. 293, §§ 1-5; 1978, ch. 922, §§ 1, 2; T.C.A., §§ 49-1765 — 49-1769; Acts 1984, ch. 839, § 2; 1996, ch. 1079, § 183; 2006, ch. 756, § 2; 2007, ch. 57, § 1.]

*5 Point Learning Academy Handbook*

Link to Tennessee Exemption information: <http://www.vaclib.org/exempt/tennessee.htm#tennforms>

**Meningococcal Information:** As per TCA 49-50-802 we offer you these [links to research](#) meningococcal disease and the effectiveness of vaccination.

49-50-802. Information about meningococcal disease and the effectiveness of vaccination.

Non-public schools shall provide parents and guardians with information about meningococcal disease and the effectiveness of vaccination against meningococcal disease at the beginning of every school year. This information shall include the causes, symptoms, and the means by which meningococcal disease is spread and the places where parents and guardians may obtain additional information and vaccinations for their children. Nothing in this section shall be construed to require a non-public school to provide or purchase vaccine against meningococcal disease. [Acts 2005, ch. 177, § 3.]

## **Enrollment Steps**

*The 5 Point Learning Academy - Satellite Program is a home and community based learning program for Home Educators, HomeSchoolers and UnSchoolers*

*We are now accepting paperwork for the July 1 2021 through June 30 2022 school year. Enrollment is open all year. Our school year runs from July 1 - June 30 allowing 365 days to schedule and log the Tennessee mandated minimum requirement of 180 days of attendance of at least four hours of learning per day. Attendance under our program begins no earlier than your enrollment date with us and ends no later than June 30th. You may schedule and log weekends and holidays.*

- Submit **New Family** or **Returning Family** paperwork with **fees**.
- Submit proof of **Immunization** or *a written statement that such immunization conflicts with your beliefs and/or the child has not been immunized or is receiving selective / delayed vaccinations due to medical reasons.*
- Copy of the child's Social Security Card and Birth Certificate is required from all students. This is for their protection.
- **Attendance and Progress /Grade Reporting requirements:**
- Enrolled families will email Attendance & Grade Reporting Form to the School so we can track attendance, submit progress/grade reports (K-8 & 9-12). Email request forms for DMV letter, transcripts, and diplomas. Our school year runs July 1 - June

*5 Point Learning Academy Handbook*

30. Attendance accrual under our program begins upon enrollment.  
***We require that at least one parent be subscribed to our announcements email list and/or Facebook group.***

***Final attendance and grade /progress reports are due on or before June 30, 2021.***

Our program operates under TACRS. When you enroll in *The 5 Point Learning Academy - Satellite Program Satellite School Program*, your home will be designated as a satellite (classroom or extension) of *The 5 Point Learning Academy - Satellite Program*. At least one parent/guardian will be appointed as a faculty member of *The 5 Point Learning Academy - Satellite Program* under the supervision of our administration. Your children will technically not be HomeSchoolers (as defined by Tennessee law)— they will be students of *The 5 Point Learning Academy - Satellite Program* a Non-Public Church-Related School.

Please note: *As a Tennessee non-public school enrollment in our program meets the compulsory attendance laws for the state of Tennessee. We do not assert that enrollment in our program meets the compulsory attendance and/or HomeSchool requirements in other states. It is the parent / guardian's responsibility to meet the requirements of the state in which the student resides if they do not reside in Tennessee.*

## **July 1, 2021 - June 30, 2022 Fees**

### **ANNUAL FAMILY REGISTRATION FEE**

**\$100 per family / household**

**applies to all families - new and re-enrolling**

**(Includes Attendance & Grade Reporting and access to online information and forms)**

**\*Prices are subject to change without notice\***

### **ANNUAL STUDENT ENROLLMENT FEES**

**Grades 9-12 \$100**

**Grades K-8 \$50**

**HeadStart & Pre-K \$50**

**(10% TAO Member *or* Sibling discount \$90/\$45)**

**(10% TAO Member *and* Sibling discount \$80/\$40)**

**We prefer that you use PayPal to submit your fees.**

**See the Website Enrollment page. or**

*5 Point Learning Academy Handbook*

**To postal mail:**

**Make Money Order payable to:  
Temple of the Ancient Ones – School Fund**

**Be sure that it has your legible name and address.**

**The 5 Point Learning Academy - Satellite Program**

**c/o Temple of the Ancient Ones**

**Attn: Rev. Shari B Yetto**

**203 Harts Bridge Rd**

**Jackson, TN 38301**

**Please do not send cash by postal mail. Send a money order only  
(sorry no Personal Checks)**

**made payable to *Temple of the Ancient Ones-School Fund.***

**Be sure to include a copy of your money order with your  
paperwork.**

**There are no refunds of fees for any reason.**

## **HeadStart & Pre-K**

**HeadStart and Pre-K are not graded grades. They are a Mastered or UnMastered Knowledge and Skills, These records will be kept to follow them as they enter the K-12 programs. It will give them the advanced knowledge that will help them succeed in the coming years.**

**HeadStart - Child should be 3 years old**

**Pre-K - Child should be 4 years old**

**Kindergarten - Child should be 5 years old**

**We understand that some children are naturally more advanced than some. If you feel this is the case, contact us about your special HeadStart case.**

**All children are supposed to start Kindergarten at age 5 unless their birthday falls too late in the year. We do not believe in holding a child back because their birthday falls after a certain date. We feel that you are the better judge if your child is ready to start or not.**

## Recording credits for high school students:

We believe that students should not be required to fit into a one-size-fits-all system.

***Yet most colleges and other schools require transcripts that list grades and credits in classes in specified subjects with specified unit values. Students on a college path need to map their experiences onto an earned credit per course framework.***

***Credits are earned by mastering the material.***

Please do not assign credit and/or grades for Community Service or Work Experience in the Subject area. You should document those under the Portfolio feature. Please assign either a numeric or letter grade for high school level subjects. For courses not listed please pick the closest match and note in the *Course Description* or *Comments* area what the course name should be on the transcript.

Students ***earn*** one-half (.5) credit for mastering one semester of high school level course work or 1 credit for a full year (two semesters). Students in a dual enrollment course at a CC or college earn .33 high school credits per 1 college credit. Please have the college send final grades to the satellite campus office.

Some students can speed through a *semester's worth of work* in less than 90 days, while others may take much longer than 90 days. ***Credits are earned by mastering the material.***

Traditional courses with textbooks/ lesson plans typically have ~ 90 units of study per semester. If you are not using textbooks – I recommend that you check out the state of Tennessee's standards and objectives for high school courses – if the student has covered and ***mastered*** the items you may assign a credit for that course.

### *5 Point Learning Academy Handbook*

<http://www.tn.gov/education/curriculum.shtml>

If you and your student need help finding your own path to our high school diploma you may find consulting with The 5 Point Learning Academy - Satellite Program staff to be helpful. Contact Shari Yetto at the main campus regarding consulting fees and establishing meeting times. She and the staff can assist you by:

- Coming up with agreements with you and your family about what you want to accomplish
- Helping you create a path to accomplish your goals
- Providing resources to help you accomplish your goals (including: classes, seminars, workshops, an internet home-base, learning coaches, project advisors, topic experts)
- Helping you keep a portfolio that shows your progress towards your goals

## **OTHER APPROACHES**

### **Real-Time Credit Accounting**

Families can map experiences into courses as they occur. For example, a visit to the doctor for an annual check-up gets credited as 1-hour towards a 180-hour/1-credit biology class. Generally one credit is equal to 150/180 clock hours of study/activity in an area that would be the equivalent of a one-year course in high school. A half credit would be given for ~75 /90

### *5 Point Learning Academy Handbook*

hours or a semester-long high school course. The time spent in study/activity is not limited to time reading a textbook and taking exams. It can include anything the student does related to that academic subject.

### **Portfolio Assessment**

Students document their accomplishments and create an index that maps from specific learning objectives (e.g., understands that most common American health problems result from excess not deficiencies) into their work (e.g., a project including a personal health plan).

Below are the Tennessee public high school graduation requirements at <http://www.state.tn.us/education/curriculum/gradreq.shtml>. If your student is following a traditional path for high school with plans to attend college this information may help **guide** your course selections. You may use the Tennessee Public School Curriculum Standards for K-12 as a reference and guide. <http://www.state.tn.us/education/curriculum.shtml>

Tennessee Public School Graduation Requirements:  
22 total credits are required for high school graduation.

*5 Point Learning Academy Handbook*

**Requirements for Tennessee Public High School Students**

**TOTAL CREDITS REQUIRED: 22 (as of this printing)**

**MATH: 4 Credits Including Algebra I, II, Geometry and a fourth higher level math course**

(see <http://www.state.tn.us/education/ci/math/index.shtml> scroll to Secondary 9-12 Mathematics)

**SCIENCE: 3 Credits**

**Including Biology, Chemistry or Physics, and a third lab course**

see [http://www.state.tn.us/education/ci/sci/doc/High\\_School\\_Course\\_Descr.pdf](http://www.state.tn.us/education/ci/sci/doc/High_School_Course_Descr.pdf)

and <http://www.state.tn.us/education/ci/sci/index.shtml>

**ENGLISH: 4 Credits**

see <http://www.state.tn.us/education/ci/english/index.shtml>

**SOCIAL STUDIES: 3 Credits**

see <http://www.state.tn.us/education/ci/ss/index.shtml>

**PHYSICAL EDUCATION AND WELLNESS: 1.5 Credits**

see <http://www.state.tn.us/education/schoolhealth/physed/doc/9-12PEandWellnessStandards2009.pdf> <http://www.state.tn.us/education/schoolhealth/physed/doc/LifetimeWellnessStandards2009.pdf>

*5 Point Learning Academy Handbook*

**PERSONAL FINANCE: .5 Credits**

see [http://www.state.tn.us/education/cte/standardscurr/doc/fc\\_persfinance0910.pdf](http://www.state.tn.us/education/cte/standardscurr/doc/fc_persfinance0910.pdf)

**FOREIGN LANGUAGE: 2 Credits**

see: [http://www.state.tn.us/education/ci/foreign\\_lang/index.shtml](http://www.state.tn.us/education/ci/foreign_lang/index.shtml)

**FINE ARTS: 1 Credit**

**May be waived for students not going to a University to expand and enhance the elective focus**

Dance: [http://www.state.tn.us/education/ci/arts/doc/ART\\_DAN\\_9-12.pdf](http://www.state.tn.us/education/ci/arts/doc/ART_DAN_9-12.pdf)

Theatre: [http://www.state.tn.us/education/ci/arts/doc/ART\\_TH\\_9-12.pdf](http://www.state.tn.us/education/ci/arts/doc/ART_TH_9-12.pdf)

**Music:**

**General: 9 - 12**

**Instrumental: 9 - 12**

**Vocal/Choral: 9 - 12**

**Class Guitar: 9 - 12**

**Class Piano: 9 - 12**

**History: 9 - 12**

**Theory: 9 - 12**

**Visual Art:**

see: [http://www.state.tn.us/education/ci/arts/doc/ART\\_VA\\_9-12.pdf](http://www.state.tn.us/education/ci/arts/doc/ART_VA_9-12.pdf)

*5 Point Learning Academy Handbook*

**Art History:**

see: [http://www.state.tn.us/education/ci/arts/doc/ART\\_VA\\_9-12.pdf](http://www.state.tn.us/education/ci/arts/doc/ART_VA_9-12.pdf)

**ELECTIVE FOCUS: 3 Credits**

**Math and Science, Career and Technical Education, Fine Arts, Humanities, Advanced Placement (AP) or International Baccalaureate (IB)**

**Grading scale (used by HomeSchool Reporting Online)**

**Standard GPA Scale (add 1.0 for College Placement: Dual Enrollment & Advanced Placement <https://apstudent.collegeboard.org/apcourse> )**

**A+ (100) 4.0, A (99-94) 4.0, A- (93) 3.670**

**B+ (92) 3.330, B (91-86) 3.0, B- (85) 2.670**

**C+ (84) 2.330, C (83-78) 2.0, C- (77) 1.670**

**D+ (76) 1.330 , D (75-71) 1, D- (70) 0.670**

**F (69-0) 0.0**

## **Receiving You Diploma Form**

**Please ensure that all of your information has been updated and submitted.**

**Submit your request to the school administration - Be sure to include:**

**FULL name of student (as you want it printed on the diploma)**

**Graduation Date : Month Day Year**

**If not picking up at the 5 Point Learning Academy in Jackson, Tennessee, include student's current postal address in form below.**

**Please Print or Type**

**Full Legal Name:**

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**Address:**

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**Date of Graduation:** \_\_\_\_\_

Fax 877-223-4598 or email to: [admin@5pointlearningacademy.com](mailto:admin@5pointlearningacademy.com)

or mail to

5 Point Learning Academy, 203 Harts Bridge Rd, Jackson, TN 38301-7672

## **Driver's Student Permit or Intermediate License**

See <http://www.tn.gov/safety/driverlicense/gdl.shtml>

### **From the Department of Safety & Homeland Security website: Proof of School Attendance**

Applicants under the age of 18 must prove they are enrolled in school and making satisfactory progress. If they have already graduated, they must bring their high school diploma or G.E.D. certificate with them when they apply. If not, they need to ask their school to complete a Certificate of Compulsory School Attendance and take the original part of this form with them to a driver license station. The form is valid for only 30 days.

If a student fifteen years of age or older drops out of school or fails to make satisfactory academic progress, the school is required to notify the Department of Safety. This suspends the student's driving privileges. The first time a student drops out, he or she may regain the privilege to drive by returning to school and making satisfactory academic progress. There is no second chance, however. The second time a student drops out he or she must wait to turn 18 years old before being eligible to apply.

We supply a letter on school letterhead. *Requirements for Proof of Attendance and Progress letter for the Department of Safety & Homeland Security*

Please note our policy regarding DMV proof of attendance and progress letters:

If a student under the age of 18 requests a DMV letter from us during the school year and does not:

*5 Point Learning Academy Handbook*

- a) submit semester reports in a timely manner
- b) obtain GED or graduate,
- c) transfer to another school

or

- e) re-enrolls with us for the next school year on or by Aug 1  
then we are required to report the student to the DMV.

Students requesting proof of attendance and progress letters must be currently enrolled with us and in attendance for at least 30 days – that means if you request a DMV letter on or after July 1, of this year – you must be enrolled for our previous school year. For example July 1, 2022 request, you would have to be enrolled in our 2021/2022 school year.

Please ensure that course work (grades to date) and attendance have been turned in and received by the school administration.

**See Website to download Form.**

**Send form with the following information:**

Student's FULL LEGAL name

Date of birth SSN Phone#

FULL Address

(including COUNTY - not country)

Parent/legal guardians name

**We do not accept rush requests for this letter.**

You will be notified by email when your request is completed.

Please allow 1 full work week for these forms to be processed and postal mailed.

## **Requirements for requesting a high school transcript**

**In the comments area of the form include:**

**FULL name of student**

**Provide college names and addresses to which the transcript should be postal mailed. The transcript will include the most recent ACT / SAT score if applicable.**

**Allow 2 weeks processing time from date of final approval of draft transcript by the parent.**

**See Website to download Form.**

**No rush processing.**

**Please ensure that you have all high school credits and grades updated and submitted to the school Administration.**

**For students who plan to attend college as the next step in life we recommend using the graduation requirements used by the public schools as a guide.**

## **HomeSchool Methods**

Now that you have decided to teach your child at home, what do you do next? You should have registered already, so now you need to decide how you plan to teach your child or children. There are several different methods, I have listed some here. Are you going to come up with your own curriculum, use a bought “box method,” look up some of the free information online, or use what 5 Point Learning Academy has to offer, or may a combination of several different way. Read the information below for some ideas, if you don’t already know how you are going to teach.

### **Traditional Homeschool Method**

This approach mimics what happens in the public school classroom. It compartmentalizes subject areas, uses textbooks, and relies on teacher-driven content. Parents who choose a Traditional teaching style tend to focus on classic literature, such as works by Charles Dickens or Nathaniel Hawthorne.

Many times this type of style leans more toward a conventional public school teaching style with clearly defined student and teacher roles; clear lesson plans and schedules; clearly defined hours of “school”; more work based on textbooks; and more dependence on worksheets, quizzes, and continuous review. Traditional teachers also tend to teach lessons in such subjects as Latin, Greek, formal logic, large portions of classic arts, and may include a large biblical emphasis.

## **Eclectic Homeschool Method**

Eclectic Homeschooling is a term that has become popular as homeschoolers gain confidence and become savvy consumers of different methods. It simply means picking and choosing what works best for you and not being afraid to make decisions or change your mind. An eclectic homeschooler may use one publisher for math and another for science. Or, she may even use a different math for each student. Eclectic homeschoolers are confident that they know what is best for their children and are highly independent in decision making.

## **Classical Education Homeschool Method**

A Classical Curriculum includes reading great works of literature and studying rhetoric and logic. Advocates of this approach are critical of progressive trends that, they believe, water down education. Their main goal is to cultivate independent thinkers, and develop great communicators and leaders.

## **Notebooking Homeschool Method**

In this home schooling method children process what they are learning by creating notebooks of various subjects. An emphasis is on what the children are interested in, collecting information, and documenting their learning. Usually the notebook method of home schooling works well for you (at least you'll have less stress in continuing on) if you:

- Want your child to have the freedom to follow her own interests,

### *5 Point Learning Academy Handbook*

- Have enough confidence in the process of learning that you don't mind if not all of your child's learning can be documented by a written test (see Unschooling),
- See a value in having your child develop expertise in an interest, and are willing to let other activities take second place, at least for a season,
- Have a child who has interests, hobbies or collections they want to pursue,
- You want to document their learning by a written record of a notebook,
- Your child is willing to learn to let his creativity out in his learning. Note: he doesn't necessarily have to start off with skill, but at least willing to learn.

## **Charlotte Mason Homeschool Method**

Charlotte Mason was an influential educator in the 19th century who advocated developing the soul and spirit of a child. Her method is literature based, with English and other subjects taught in an integrated way. This approach has become wildly popular with homeschoolers with many curriculum providers utilizing the Mason Method.

Charlotte Mason Method: A method of education popular with homeschoolers in which children are taught as whole persons through a wide range of interesting living books, firsthand experiences, and good habits. The Charlotte Mason method, is centered around the idea that education is three-pronged: Education is an Atmosphere, a Discipline, a Life.

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By “Atmosphere,” Charlotte meant the surroundings in which the child grows up. A child absorbs a lot from his home environment. Charlotte believed that atmosphere makes up one-third of a child’s education.

By “Discipline,” Charlotte meant the discipline of good habits — and specifically habits of character. Cultivating good habits in your child’s life make up another third of his education.

The other third of education, “Life,” applies to academics. Charlotte believed that we should give children living thoughts and ideas, not just dry facts. So all of her methods for teaching the various school subjects are built around that concept.

For example, Charlotte’s students used living books rather than dry textbooks. Living books are usually written in story form by one author who has a passion for the subject. A living book makes the subject “come alive.”

She taught spelling by using passages from great books that communicate great ideas rather than just a list of words. She encouraged spending time outdoors, interacting with God’s creation firsthand and learning the living ways of nature.

Many homeschoolers have adopted her philosophy and methods as they seek to educate the whole child, not just his or her mind.

## **Montessori Homeschool Method**

The Montessori Method is based on the work of Dr. Maria Montessori and is primarily concerned with the education of young children. Her theories are based on a belief that a child learns through freedom in a structured environment. The Montessori classroom gives children free access to materials, exercises, and resources designed for sensory and motor training that lead to later skills mastery. Instead of teaching, adults become encouragers and guides while students express and explore.

## **Unschooling/Child Directed Homeschool Method**

Unschooling allows children to take control of their educational choices. Unschooling is student-directed instead of teacher-directed. Unschoolers often take issue with the current, expert-based education system, choosing instead to trust the individual's ability to guide their own education by following their interests. Parents who choose an Unschooling or Child Directed teaching style base their approach on the interests and natural learning patterns of their individual child. This style avoids use of textbooks, reviewing, quizzing, or even formal testing.

The child's natural curiosity and interests are the key to the daily activities. There is a large emphasis on imagination, nature, art, music and almost no formal curriculum is used. There is no use of lesson plans, a defined "school" time, or even any type of grading. The child's environment, though controlled, is used as the bases of learning. A great curriculum choice for this type of teaching style is Unit Studies. Unit Studies allow the child's interests to control the basis of study.

## **Combined Parent & Child Directed**

Parents who choose a combined Parent and Child Directed teaching style feel more confident in their family's ability to decide what's important to study and what isn't. The types of curriculums available for this style involve more hands-on creative activities and also more independent study and thought time. Many times nature and art play a larger role in the lesson plans. There is more emphasis on your child's personal interests and imagination. The use of varied curriculums works best with this type of teaching style.

## **The Principle Approach Homeschool Method**

This approach is uniquely Christian and encompasses the idea that all learning centers on God's word. Students learn the methods of America's Founding Fathers; specifically Research, Reasoning, Relating, and Recording.

## **Literature Based Homeschooling**

Sonlight Home School Curriculum is probably the oldest and one of the most popular of the literature-based home school curriculums. Rather than use textbooks, which can be rather dry and uninteresting to many children, literature-based curriculums use "living books" like Charlotte Mason advocated. Students read historical fiction, first-person accounts and books written by people with a passion for their subject. The Literature-based method actually covers a broad range of home

*5 Point Learning Academy Handbook*

schooling methods, including the Unit Study method, Charlotte Mason method, and other methods.

Usually a literature-based home schooling method will work quite well for you (at least you'll have less stress in continuing on) if you:

- Want to have your child follow a set scope and sequence,
- Want to have general accountability for your child,
- See a value in having your child love to read by reading books he or she will love to read,
- Want to be involved in the day-to-day process of your child's education, through discussion that will draw out what your child is learning and perhaps controversial issues raised through the books.

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**More Legal Codes**

TCA 49-50-801. Church-related schools.

(a) As used in this section, unless the context otherwise requires, “church-related school” means a school operated by denominational, parochial or other bona fide church organizations, which are required to meet the standards of accreditation or membership of the Tennessee Association of Christian Schools, the Association of Christian Schools International, the Tennessee Association of Independent Schools, the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools, the Tennessee Association of Non-Public Academic Schools, the Tennessee Association of Church Related Schools, or a school affiliated with Accelerated Christian Education, Inc.

(b) The state board of education and local boards of education are prohibited from regulating the selection of faculty or textbooks or the establishment of a curriculum in church-related schools.

(c) The state board of education and local boards of education shall not prohibit or impede the transfer of a student from a church-related school to a public school of this state. Local boards may, however, place students transferring from a church-related school to a public school in a grade level based upon the student’s performance on a test administered by the board for that purpose. In local school systems where the local board of education requires tests for students transferring to that system from another public school system, the same test shall be administered to students transferring to such system from church-related schools. Church-related schools shall be conducted for the same length of term as public schools.

*5 Point Learning Academy Handbook*

(d) Nothing in this section shall be interpreted as prohibiting church-related schools from voluntarily seeking approval by the state board of education, nor prohibiting the state board of education from extending such approval when it is voluntarily sought.

[Acts 1976, ch. 596, §§ 1-4; T.C.A., §§ 49-5201 - 49-5204; Acts 1987, ch.42, § 6; 1992, ch. 972, § 1; 1996, ch. 595, § 1.]

**How we all got here:**

**Jeter Memorandum**

Don Sundquist Governor

Jane Walters, Ph.D. Commissioner

Tennessee State Department of Education 6th Floor, Gateway Plaza 710 James  
Robertson Nashville, TN 37243-0375

Memorandum

Office of Legal Counsel 26th Floor - Tennessee Tower 312 8th Ave North  
Nashville, TN 37243

DATE: February 18, 1999

TO: Superintendents and Directors of Schools

FROM: Jane Walters

RE: Current Status of the Law on Church-Related Schools (Satellite) and  
Home Schools in Tennessee

Parents in Tennessee can provide instruction at home through a church-  
related school as defined by Section 49-50-801 in the Tennessee Code  
Annotated. There has been some confusion in this matter causing school  
districts to illegally declare children truant when their parents have chosen  
this option. Many of these schools are referred to as "Satellite Programs."

Enclosed is a document, which explains the current status of the law. If  
you have any questions, please contact the department legal counsel, Kaye  
Jeter at (615)741-2921. [end of page]

[Enclosure]

Tennessee State Department of Education Office of Commissioner Nashville,  
Tennessee, 37243-0375

*5 Point Learning Academy Handbook*

Memorandum

Office of Legal Counsel 26th Floor - Tennessee Tower 312 8th Ave North  
Nashville, TN 37243

DATE: January 29, 1999

TO: Jane Walters, Commissioner

FROM: Kaye Jeter, Legal Counsel

RE: Current Status of the Law on Church-Related Schools (Satellite) and  
Home Schools in Tennessee

After meeting, discussing and reviewing the issue of church-related schools and home schools with several home school attorneys, staff personnel, and attendance officers, the following is a summary of the current law:

May parents comply with the Tennessee compulsory attendance law by having their children attend a church-related school as defined by Section 49-50-801 of the Tennessee Code Annotated while the instruction is being provided in the home with the parent as the primary teacher? This question has never been addressed by the Tennessee courts, but in our opinion the statutory language indicates a response in the affirmative. Most parents who teach their children at home do so under the home school provisions of Section 49-6-3050 . According to Section 49-6-3050, a home school is defined as a "school conducted by parent(s) or legal guardian(s) for their own children." Home schools are divided into two categories under the law: (1) those associated with a church-related school and (2) those that are not. A home school associated with a church-related school is exempt from the requirements imposed on other home schools. However, students in grades nine through 12 in home schools associated with a church-related school must register with the local education agency (LEA) and take standardized achievement test used by the local school district and approved by the State Board of Education.

Parents also have the option of having their children attend a church-related school. This is not home schooling, because the church-related school is not being conducted by parents or legal guardians for their own children. This school is being operated by a denominational, parochial, or other bona fide church organization as required by Section 49-50-801. Under this

### *5 Point Learning Academy Handbook*

option there is no need to comply with any of the home school provisions of Section 49-6-3050.

In order to have children attend a church-related school while being taught at home by their parents, the home will have to be designated as a classroom or extension of the church-related school. The parent will have to be considered a faculty member of the church-related school under the direct supervision of its administration. Such an arrangement should have other characteristics which distinguish it from a home school associated with a church-related school, although there are no particular legal requirements as such. Following are examples of such characteristics which would likely be considered by the courts in scrutinizing this education option. The parents should have the same accountability to those in authority at the church-related school as any other teachers at the main campus or location of the school. The curriculum and schedule of instruction should be approved by the church-related school. There should be centralized record keeping, attendance reporting, and academic evaluation. Organized activities of the church-related school such as field trips, sports, and band, as well as group instruction in such subjects as music and art are all factors which further indicate that this is not just a home school program. Merely associating with a church-related school as described in Section 49-6-3050 as a home schooling option is insufficient. The relationship must be such that the school is being operated by denominational, parochial, or bona fide church organization described in Section 49-50-801, not being conducted by the parent as described in Section 49-6-3050. There is no requirement that the main campus of the church-related school be located in the same city as the home where the extension program is being conducted.

An important element of this approach is the fact that under Section 49-50-801, the church-related school must meet the standards of accreditation or membership of the Tennessee Association of Christian Schools, the Association of Christian Schools International, the Tennessee Association of Independent Schools, the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools, the Tennessee Association of Non-Public Academic Schools, the Tennessee Association of Church Related Schools, or a school affiliated with Accelerated Christian Education, Inc. If the church-related school is unable to meet these standards of accreditation or membership in the named associations, then the school is not a church-related school as defined in the statute.

### *5 Point Learning Academy Handbook*

Accordingly, parents who are contemplating this approach should first insure that the school will meet the accreditation or membership requirements of Section 49-50-801 in order to be defined as a church-related school. Note that either being accredited by or being a member of one of these associations is sufficient according to the language of this statute. Some of these associations may not have memberships but may only accredit schools.

In summary, children attending a church-related school through its satellite or extension program in their home and being taught by a parent who is a faculty member of the school are in compliance with Tennessee's compulsory attendance law. In order for this to be recognized as a legitimate educational option, the characteristics of the relationship between the parents and the church related school should indicate that the school is being operated by the religious organization, not by the parent. This church-related school option does not change the home school law.

Parents electing to conduct a home school associated with a church-related school or to have their children attend a church-related school should follow normal withdrawal procedures during the school year if their children are enrolled in public school. For children enrolled in public school the previous year, the LEA may request information on their current placement. Parents whose children have not been enrolled in public school are not required by law to provide notice to the LEA of their decision to choose one of these options. Public school officials who have reason to believe that a child may not be in compliance with the compulsory attendance law should make inquiry of the parent or guardian to determine what educational option has been chosen. If advised by the parent either that a home school is being conducted in association with a church-related school or that the child is attending a church-related school through its extension program, this information may be verified by contacting the church-related school. In such an inquiry the church-related school may be asked to provide the name of the denominational, parochial, or other bona fide church organization operating the school, so that this may be verified as well. There should be no need for further inquiry. [end]

## **TACRS (TN Associate of Church Related Schools)**

### **Educational Guidelines Edited and Posted to show the Rules that the School has to follow.**

1. **The Goal of Education:** is to assist children in acquiring wisdom and good character. Specifically parents, teachers, and administrators should endeavor to see that all children increase in wisdom and stature and in favor with Gods and man.

2. **Qualifications of Teachers:** Teachers should be of good moral character, and should be able to demonstrate both a general competence in the subjects that they teach and an attitude of patience and compassion towards their students. Parents who choose to take direct responsibility for any part of their children's education are presumed to be competent and aware of their own gifts and limitations. Parents should be encouraged to seek assistance and guidance from teachers and administrators whenever they wish to. Educational diplomas and/or professional certification by itself should neither qualify nor disqualify any individual or teacher.

3. **Academic Curriculum:** TACRS does not endorse any curriculum, nor does it require any member school to have its curriculum approved. Member schools are encouraged to thoughtfully and prayerfully consider the many options available to them from a variety of academic publishers and organizations and to be innovative in considering the varied needs of students.

4. **Length of school year and day:** By statute, Tennessee requires that "Church-related schools shall be conducted for the same length of term as public schools." (TCA 49-50-801 (C)). TACRS does not establish any arbitrary figure for the required number of instructional hours per day. Member schools are encouraged to evaluate the appropriate amount of time necessary to cover the material in their academic program and to work together with parents to establish a reasonable calendar which accomplishes their academic goals. The number of hours per day may vary depending on the same academic program and the varying needs of the students. Students should master certain subject matter. It is not necessary they be required to spend an arbitrary number of hours doing so.

5. **Achievement Testing:** Testing is a way of measuring progress towards some

### *5 Point Learning Academy Handbook*

pre-determined goal. The goals of a specifically Spiritual education may or may not be in conformity with the goals being measured by national standardized achievement tests. Member schools are cautioned therefore about the use of achievement test scores. TACRS neither requires nor prohibits the use of achievement tests. Achievement test scores may be a useful aid as part of an overall assessment of the progress of an individual student. Member schools are encouraged to educate parents and teachers about the proper use and interpretation of standardized achievement tests and to use them appropriately.

**6. Permanent records:** Member schools should keep permanent records on each student enrolled, in order to document their educational program accomplishments and to facilitate the student's pursuit of other future educational opportunities. Care should be taken to maintain the confidentiality of student records and they should not be disclosed to any third party without the permission of the student's parents or guardians. TACRS requests that its member schools send composite statistics about enrolled students twice each year. In the fall, total enrollment by grade should be submitted and in the spring, average achievement test scores (if available) by grade should be reported.

**7. Accreditation:** Member schools are free to seek accreditation from other independent agencies and associations if they wish, but TACRS does not provide accreditation services.

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*Where the World is Your Classroom & You are the Stars*

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