



# THE STATUTES OF THE REPUBLIC OF SINGAPORE

## COMPULSORY EDUCATION ACT 2000

### 2020 REVISED EDITION

This revised edition incorporates all amendments up to and including 1 December 2021 and comes into operation on 31 December 2021.

*Prepared and Published by*

THE LAW REVISION COMMISSION  
UNDER THE AUTHORITY OF  
THE REVISED EDITION OF THE LAWS ACT 1983



# Compulsory Education Act 2000

## ARRANGEMENT OF SECTIONS

### Section

1. Short title
2. Interpretation
3. Compulsory primary education
4. Exemption
5. Establishment and constitution of Compulsory Education Board
6. Duties and powers of Board
7. Penalties
8. No person to be charged for offence except on complaint of Director-General
9. Composition of offences
10. Protection from personal liability
11. Operation of this Act not to affect Education Act 1957
12. Regulations

---

An Act to provide for compulsory primary education in Singapore and for matters connected therewith.

[1 January 2003]

### **Short title**

1. This Act is the Compulsory Education Act 2000.

### **Interpretation**

2. In this Act, unless the context otherwise requires —
  - “Board” means the Compulsory Education Board established under section 5;
  - “child of compulsory school age” means a child above the age of 6 years who has not yet attained the age of 15 years and who satisfies such conditions for receiving primary education as the Director-General may determine;

“Director-General” means the Director-General of Education, and includes such officers of the Ministry of Education as may from time to time be authorised to exercise the functions of the Director-General of Education under section 5 of the Education Act 1957;

“national primary school” means any institution for the provision of full-time primary education, being —

- (a) a school organised and conducted directly by the Government;
- (b) a school in receipt of grant-in-aid under the Education Act 1957;
- (c) a school specified in any order made under section 3(1) of the School Boards (Incorporation) Act 1990; or
- (d) such other school as may be prescribed;

“parent”, in relation to a child to whom section 3(1) applies, includes a guardian and any person having the actual custody of the child;

“primary education” means a 6-year course of education normally commencing when a child has attained the age of 6 years.

### **Compulsory primary education**

3.—(1) A child of compulsory school age who is —

- (a) born after 1 January 1996;
- (b) a citizen of Singapore; and
- (c) residing in Singapore,

must attend regularly as a pupil at a national primary school.

(2) If a child of compulsory school age fails to attend regularly as a pupil at a national primary school as required under subsection (1), each parent of the child shall be guilty of an offence.