

**Compulsory Education Act  
(CHAPTER 51)**

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# COMPULSORY EDUCATION ACT

## (CHAPTER 51)

(Original Enactment: Act 27 of 2000)

REVISED EDITION 2001

(31st December 2001)

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

[1st January 2003]

### *Short title*

1. This Act may be cited as the Compulsory Education Act.

### *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 (Cap. 87);

“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;
- (c) a school specified in any order made under section 3(1) of the School Boards (Incorporation) Act (Cap. 284A); 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 1st January 1996;
- (b) a citizen of Singapore; and
- (c) residing in Singapore,

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

(2) Where 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.

(3) This section shall not apply —

- (a) to a child of compulsory school age for whom a parent presents within a reasonable time a prescribed reason to the satisfaction of the Director-General for the absence of the child at a national primary school; or
- (b) to a child of compulsory school age who is exempted under section 4.

### ***Exemption***

4.—(1) The Minister may, by order published in the Gazette and subject to such terms or conditions as he may impose, exempt any child of compulsory school age or class of children of compulsory school age from section 3.

(2) An exemption granted under this section may be revoked at any time.

### ***Establishment and constitution of Compulsory Education Board***

5.—(1) There shall be established a body to be known as the Compulsory Education Board.

(2) The Board shall consist of such number of members as the Minister may, in his discretion, appoint.

(3) The Minister shall appoint one of the members of the Board as chairman.

(4) Subject to subsections (5) and (6), a member of the Board shall hold and vacate his office in accordance with the terms of his appointment and shall, on ceasing to be a member, be eligible for reappointment.