

EARLY ADMISSION TO KINDERGARTEN OR FIRST GRADE

A. Conditions and standards to be used in determining a child's eligibility for early admission to Kindergarten

A child who has not reached the age of five (5) may make application for admission to Kindergarten according to the following procedures:

1. The child's fifth birthday should be between September 1 and before November 1 inclusive.
2. Admission to and successful completion of preschool under state law as verified by records or telephone contact; or
3. Successful completion of a program for preschool children which the school district deems equivalent to preschool as verified by records or telephone contact; or
4. Demonstration of the social, emotional, physical and mental maturity normally expected for successful participation in Kindergarten.

B. Conditions and standards to be used in determining a child's eligibility for early admission to First Grade

A child who has not reached the age of six (6) may make application for admission to First Grade according to the following procedures:

1. The child's sixth birthday should be between September 1 and November 1 inclusive.
2. Admission to and successful completion of Kindergarten under state law as verified by records or telephone contact; or
3. Successful completion of a program for Kindergarten children which the school district deems equivalent to Kindergarten as verified by records or telephone contact; or
4. Demonstration of the social, emotional, physical and mental maturity normally expected for successful participation in First Grade.

C. Procedures

1. Written request shall be made by the child's parent/guardian to the elementary Principal, and accepted through the first week in April. If parent/guardian moves into the District after April 1, request shall be on file at least one month prior to the beginning of the school year. After receiving the written request for early admission, the elementary Principal will send a letter to parent/guardian. Included in the letter will be the school board policy on entrance age and early admission procedures. The mailing will also include an early admission questionnaire to be completed by the parent/guardian.
2. After receiving the early admission questionnaire, the building Principal, school psychologist, and a Kindergarten or First Grade teacher will meet to review the parent/guardian's reasons for requesting entrance prior to the legal age.
3. If the child is recommended for individual assessment, an evaluation of the benefit from early admission to Kindergarten or First Grade shall be required. The initial assessment is conducted by a school psychologist and is designed to assess the child's aptitude to learn (intelligence). The child must be able to demonstrate intellectual skills in the "superior" to "very superior" range. The individual evaluation shall be conducted by a certified school psychologist. The parents/guardian will be required to sign a permission form for testing. The testing will be at no cost to the parents. The school psychologist and Principal will determine whether further evaluation is warranted. The parent or guardian of the child may obtain a private assessment at their own expense, but it will be accepted for consideration only if performed by a school psychologist licensed at level II by the DPI.

4. The staff members completing the evaluation and/or the Principal shall meet with the child's parents or guardian to present the results of the evaluation and the recommendation regarding early admission to Kindergarten or First Grade. A written decision regarding the request will be provided to the parent or guardian and a copy kept on file in the District.
 - a. If the request is approved, the Principal shall inform the parent or guardian that the Kindergarten or First Grade placement shall be contingent on the child's successful adjustment to the school setting and satisfactory progress. The placement shall be reviewed within 30 days of admission or after the first term. The decision to continue or change the placement shall be made by the classroom teacher, Principal and student services personnel as necessary. The decision will be communicated to the child's parent or guardian.
 - b. If the request is denied, the Principal shall inform the parent or guardian of their opportunity to appeal the decision to the District Administrator whose decision may be appealed to the Amery Board of Education. The School Board has final authority for deciding whether or not the child is to be admitted to Kindergarten in accordance with the conditions and standards specified in this policy. The appeal must be made in writing to the District Administrator within 10 days of receipt of the Principal's decision.

LEGAL REFERENCE: Sections 118.15(1)(am) Wisconsin Statutes
115.28(2)
118.14

CROSS REFERENCE: 420.1-Procedures (2), Admission to First Grade Without Having Attended Kindergarten

ADOPTED: March 21, 2011