

The decision to allow a child to enter 4 year-old kindergarten, 5 year-old kindergarten or first grade earlier than the legal age shall be made with the understanding that this decision will impact the child's entire school career. The goal for screening students for early entrance to these grades is to identify those students who will thrive rather than merely survive in school. The procedures and criteria below establish a process that will enable children demonstrating advanced intellectual, social, physical, and emotional maturity to gain early admission. It is not a process to determine if a child is ready for the grade; it is designed to identify children who are extraordinary. An Early Admission Assessment Team (consisting of the principal, school psychologist, reading teacher and appropriate grade level teacher) shall determine eligibility of the child for early admission in accordance with the following.

## **Eligibility Criteria**

The District will use one of the two processes below to determine the eligibility of a child for early admission to 4 year-old kindergarten, 5 year-old kindergarten or first grade.

1. A child who has successfully completed the District's 4 year-old kindergarten, or a comparable program (five days a week), shall be eligible for early entrance to 5 year-old kindergarten. Likewise, a child who has successfully completed the District's 5 year-old kindergarten, or a comparable program (five days a week), shall be eligible for early entrance to first grade.

**OR**

2. Eligibility criteria for early admission to 4 year-old or 5 year-old kindergarten and first grade, for all other children, are as follows:
  - Only children with a birth date on or before October 31 of the year for which admission is sought are eligible for early admission consideration.
  - Parent(s) must submit a formal written application for early admission to the Principal or designee of the elementary school of their attendance area. Application forms are available at all elementary school offices after February 1. Parents residing in the District must make formal application prior to March 1. Parents moving into the District after March 1 must submit their application no later than four weeks from the date of residency.
  - A personal interview with the principal and the school psychologist will be held to determine the parent's reasons for requesting entrance prior to the legal age.

- An evaluation of the child's potential to benefit from early admission to the grade will be required. To be considered for early admission the child will be measured against the following criteria;
  - Give evidence of skills and abilities in the superior range (defined as achieving at or above the 95 percentile on a standardized measure) in the following domains;
    - a. Intellectual ability
    - b. Language development
    - c. Academic skills
  - Demonstrate advanced skills in reading and mathematics on local assessments for the grade level they seek early entrance or comparable scores on other appropriate grade level screenings used in the District.
  - The child's fine and gross motor functioning, perceptual skills, social/emotional functioning, and general behavior will be measured at least age 4-0 (for early admission to 4 year-old kindergarten) 5-0 (for early admission to 5 year-old kindergarten) or at least age 6-0 (for early admission to first grade) as assessed on a standardized rating scale and through direct observation.

### 3. Conditions and Standards for Exemption from Kindergarten Completion Requirement

A child who has not completed 5-year-old kindergarten may be admitted to first grade if he/she meets any of the following requirements:

- The child has successfully completed a program for 5-year-old children that the school district deems equivalent to kindergarten. Documentation of program completion shall be required.
- The child demonstrates academic and developmental readiness skills expected for successful participation in first grade. Evidence must exist that the child's educational welfare would best be served by placement in first grade.
- Before either commencing or completing first grade, the child moved into Wisconsin from a state, country or territory in which completion of 5-year-old kindergarten is not a prerequisite to entering first grade.
- Before either commencing or completing first grade, the child moved into Wisconsin from a state, country or territory in which completion of 5-year-old kindergarten is a prerequisite to entering first grade and the child was

exempted from the requirement to complete 5-year-old kindergarten in the state, country or territory from which the child moved.

Exceptions to the above criteria may be made by the Early Admission Assessment Team and/or the District Administrator if further factors or conditions are presented that would indicate consideration for early admission is in the best interest of the child.

## **Appeals Procedure**

1. A decision to not recommend early entrance may be appealed to the District Administrator. The District Administrator's decision may further be appealed to the Board of Education. The Board's decision is final.
2. Appeals must be submitted within 10 days following notification.

An early admission placement is a conditional placement. It is subject to review by the Early Admission Assessment Team during quarterly reviews during the first year enrolled. During the reviews, the Team may determine that the placement was not in the best interest of the child and recommend that the placement be changed.

## **Legal References:**

## **Cross References:**

**Adoption Date:** 9/21/2015