

ENTRANCE AGE

A child who is four years old on or before September 1 of the year in which he/she proposes to enter four-year-old kindergarten (4K), five years old on or before September 1 of the year in which he/she proposes to enter five-year-old kindergarten (5K), or six years old on or before September 1 of the year in which he/she proposes to enter first grade, may be enrolled in 4K, 5K or first grade, respectively, at the beginning of the school year. Beginning in the 2011-12 school year, with certain exceptions, state law requires a child to complete 5K as a prerequisite to being admitted to first grade in a public school. A four-year-old kindergartner, five-year-old kindergartner or first grader who has not previously been enrolled in a district school shall be registered in the spring of the year in which he/she will enter kindergarten or first grade and enrollment shall be completed before or during the first 10 days of the school year.

In extraordinary and exceptional cases, children who do not meet the age requirement for admission to 5K or first grade may be considered for early admission. There is no early admission for 4K. Based upon past experience and the advice of experts in educational development and child psychology, the Board believes that it is in only extraordinary and exceptional cases that early admission to school is appropriate for or a benefit to the child admitted early. To the contrary, many students admitted early to school have been adversely affected by the early admission. Accordingly, it shall be the strong and clear policy and purpose of the Board to discourage early admissions to school except in the most extraordinary and exceptional cases. The administration shall review requests for early admission in light of this policy directive. Any prior practice or written or unwritten policy of the Board to the contrary is hereby specifically abrogated.

To discharge the responsibilities concerning age of admission of children to school and to establish standards and conditions for early admission to school and a procedure to review and act on early admission requests, the Board adopts the accompanying procedures.

Children with Disabilities

Given written parental request, an individualized education program (IEP) screening shall be provided to any child who has reached the age of three to determine if the child has a disability. If the child is determined to have a disability and if the parent(s)/guardian(s) of a child consent in writing, a resident child with disabilities shall be placed in an appropriate special educational program.

ADOPTED: March 26, 1979

REVISED: October 28, 1985 July 27, 1987 March 21, 1988
December 17, 1990 November 26, 2001 February 9, 2009
May 22, 2013

LEGAL REF.: Wisconsin Statutes: 115.80
118.14

CROSS REF.: JEB-R, Early Admission Procedures (Kindergarten and First Grade)

REVIEW DATE: May 22, 2013

EARLY ADMISSION PROCEDURES (Kindergarten and First Grade)

It is Board policy that early admission to kindergarten or first grade is discouraged. There is no early admission for 4K per Board Policy JEB. The administration shall presume that its recommendation shall be against early admission unless it is clearly apparent based upon the criteria set forth below that early admission is in the best interest of the child for whom early admission is sought.

The following shall be the conditions and procedures for obtaining early admission to kindergarten or first grade:

1. A written request for early admission must be made to the Superintendent of Schools or an elementary school principal by the child's parent(s)/guardian(s) by no later than May 1 of the year the child proposes to enter kindergarten or first grade. Parent(s)/guardian(s) will receive a written acknowledgement of their request and will be provided with a copy of this policy.
2. The child for whom early admission is sought must be five years of age on or before November 1 of the year the child proposes to enter kindergarten or six years of age on or before November 1 of the year the child proposes to enter first grade.
3. An elementary school principal shall appoint a team to meet with the parent(s)/guardian(s) to discuss early admission. This team shall be composed of a school psychologist, a kindergarten or first grade teacher, a speech and language pathologist, and any other individual(s) designated by the principal. These individuals will discuss the child's kindergarten or first grade readiness with the parent(s)/guardian(s). The child will be screened using the most current edition of the *DABERON-2: A Screening Device for School Readiness*. If the child scores above the 95th percentile on the DABERON or receives a recommendation from the School Psychologist further assessment will include: an intellectual assessment and a speech and language assessment. In order to be eligible for early admission to kindergarten or first grade, the child must score above the 95th percentile on the most recent edition of the Wechsler Preschool and Primary Scale of Intelligence, and above the 95th percentile on the most recent edition of the Clinical Evaluation of Language Fundamentals-Preschool or School Age Edition as appropriate. Additionally, the child must show evidence of average or better attention span for children who typically enter kindergarten or first grade, and show evidence of emotional maturity and social interactional skills that are comparable to students who will be entering kindergarten or first grade.
4. All of the above information will be discussed with the parent(s)/guardian(s) of the student and the team will make a recommendation relative to the appropriateness of early admission to kindergarten or first grade.
5. The testing information and recommendations of this team will be submitted to the Superintendent of Schools for his/her review. The Superintendent will then prepare his/her recommendations in accordance with the School Board's policy regarding early admission.
6. The findings and recommendations of the team along with the recommendations of the Superintendent will be submitted to the Board of Education for consideration of early admission to kindergarten or first grade.

7. The Board of Education shall make the final determination of whether or not the child shall be granted early admission to kindergarten or first grade. Such determination shall be based upon the findings and recommendations of the team and Superintendent and on any additional evidence that may be presented to the Board by the parent(s)/guardian(s) of the child. The Board may permit the parent(s)/guardian(s) of the child to be heard prior to its consideration and final action on the request for early admission to kindergarten or first grade.

5/22/13