

## Lower Merion School District

### ADMINISTRATIVE REGULATIONS

Policy No.: 201  
Section: STUDENTS  
Title: ADMISSION OF BEGINNERS  
Date Last Revised: 10/21/24; 4/3/20; 3/8/19; 2/19/19; 2/8/18; 4/19/10; 4/25/08; 2/29/08

#### R201 Admission of Beginners

The following guidelines apply when a parent/guardian seeks early admission to first grade for their child in the Lower Merion School District.

##### I. Families who move into the Lower Merion School District

- A. Students who have completed a year of kindergarten in a public school in the United States, but have not reached the entrance age of six years as of September 15<sup>th</sup> of the upcoming school year are eligible to enter first grade in the Lower Merion School District.
- B. Students who have completed a year of kindergarten in a non-public school or public school not in the United States, but have not reached the entrance age of six years as of September 15<sup>th</sup> of the upcoming school year must be evaluated by a certified school psychologist at the expense of the parents/guardians following the testing guidelines listed below in Section III. This evaluation should occur within six months prior to the anticipated entrance date to the Lower Merion School District.

##### II. Families who have resided within the Lower Merion School District

- A. The child's chronological age must be a minimum of five years, seven months by September 1<sup>st</sup> for the school year for which the child is being considered (6 years of age by the following February).
- B. The child must be evaluated by a certified school psychologist at the expense of the parents/guardians following the testing guidelines listed below in Section III. This evaluation should occur within six months prior to the anticipated entrance date to the Lower Merion School District.

##### III. Testing and Professional Report

- A. A Pennsylvania certified school psychologist must administer appropriate individual tests and related assessments to determine the child's social, emotional, physical, and academic readiness for a first grade program. Observation of the child in their pre-first grade setting by the psychologist is encouraged. The psychologist's report must include full scale and subtest score results, clinical impressions, and a recommendation regarding the child's readiness for first grade at this time. The psychologist's report

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should be forwarded to the building principal of the child's attendance area elementary school by **June 1<sup>st</sup>**.

B. Required Assessment Battery

1. Intelligence Testing

- Wechsler Preschool Primary Scales of Intelligence, Fourth Edition (WPPSI-IV)  
or
- Stanford Binet, Fifth Edition (SB-V) with the subtest scores reported

2. Basic Readiness

- Metropolitan Readiness Test  
or
- Woodcock Johnson Test of Achievement, Fourth Edition (WJ-IV)  
or
- Wechsler Individual Achievement Test, Third Edition (WIAT-III)

3. Attention/Behavior – Parent and teacher completion of these scales:

- Connors' Rating Scale  
or
- Brown ADD Scales  
and
- Pre-School Kindergarten Behavior Scale, Second Edition (PKBS-2)

4. Clinical Impressions

Statements about the child's functioning in the areas listed below should be included in the evaluation report. While formal testing in these areas is not required, assessments may be helpful in determining a child's readiness for early admission to first grade.

- Language functioning: Skill development in receptive and expressive vocabulary, concept development and usage, language processing listening, and written expression
- Attention span
- Social interaction
- Frustration tolerance and flexibility
- Stamina
- Fine and gross motor development

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**IV. Criteria for Early Admission to First Grade**

- A. Full Scale IQ must be at least two standard deviations above the mean with no statistically significant discrepancy between the indices on the WPPSI-IV or scales on the Stanford Binet V.
- B. Basic Readiness test results must be at least two standard deviations above the mean.
- C. Attention/Behavior scales should not indicate any clinical significance.

**V. Decision for Early Admission to First Grade**

- A. The school's clinical team will review the data and testing results contained in the private evaluation report. Consultation with Student Services is available to the school team upon request. The school team will issue a written report (**Attachment A**) to the Superintendent or designee with a recommendation about the student's early admission to first grade.
- B. The Superintendent or designee will determine whether the child will be granted early admission to first grade and will notify the child's parents/guardians.

**VI. Decision for Retention in Kindergarten**

- A. General information on registration for an upcoming school year will be released to families in the school district by the preceding February 1.
- B. These families that are seeking to have their child repeat kindergarten in the Lower Merion School District will given an opportunity to learn more about the District's kindergarten and first grade programs as well as why the District does not typically recommend retention for incoming students who have already completed kindergarten. This information will be provided to parents/guardians with registration information.
- C. The District will request a meeting with a family who informs the District of their decision to retain their Kindergarten student. The purpose of the meeting will be to discuss their child's optimal placement and supports that are in place for varied student

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readiness. After that meeting, the family will be asked to confirm their enrollment choice by May 1st.

- D. A family may decline this meeting and inform the District they intend to retain their child in Kindergarten.

\* There is no early admission to Kindergarten except to the extent that it may be required by law.

**ATTACHMENT A**

**LOWER MERION SCHOOL DISTRICT  
CONSIDERATION FOR EARLY ADMISSION TO FIRST GRADE**

**Student's Name** \_\_\_\_\_ Birthdate \_\_\_\_\_  
**Age at Evaluation** \_\_\_\_\_ **Current School** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Name of Independent Evaluator** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Address of Independent Evaluator** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Today's Date** \_\_\_\_\_ **LMSD Elementary School** \_\_\_\_\_

**REQUIRED ASSESSMENT BATTERY**

**1. INTELLIGENCE TESTING** --Demonstrated Full Scale I.Q. must be two standard deviations above the mean.

- WESCHLER: Preschool Primary Scale of Intelligence, Fourth Edition (WPPSI-IV)

Verbal Comprehension \_\_\_\_\_ Fluid Reasoning \_\_\_\_\_ Processing Speed \_\_\_\_\_

Visual Spatial \_\_\_\_\_ Working Memory \_\_\_\_\_ Full Scale I.Q.\* \_\_\_\_\_

**OR**

- STANFORD BINET, Fifth Edition (SB-V)

List subset scores

**2. BASIC READINESS** -- Results must be two standard deviations above the mean.

- Metropolitan Readiness Test

Pre-Reading: \_\_\_\_\_ Quantitative: \_\_\_\_\_ Total: \_\_\_\_\_

**OR**

- Woodcock Johnson, Fourth Edition Test of Achievement (WJ-IV)

List subtest standard scores:

**OR**

- Wechsler Individual Achievement Test, Third Edition (WIAT-III)

List subtest standard scores:

**3. ATTENTION/BEHAVIOR** - Results should not indicate significant concerns

**Parent and teacher completion of scales**

- Connors' Rating Scale **OR** Brown ADD Scales

**AND**

- Pre-School Kindergarten Behavior Scale, Second Edition (PKBS-2)

**Summary Comments regarding Language Functioning; Emotional and Social Maturity; and Physical Readiness:**

**Clinical Team Recommendation:** (Circle One)    Approve    Disapprove

**Reason(s) for Recommendation:**