

Qualification of Attendance and Placement

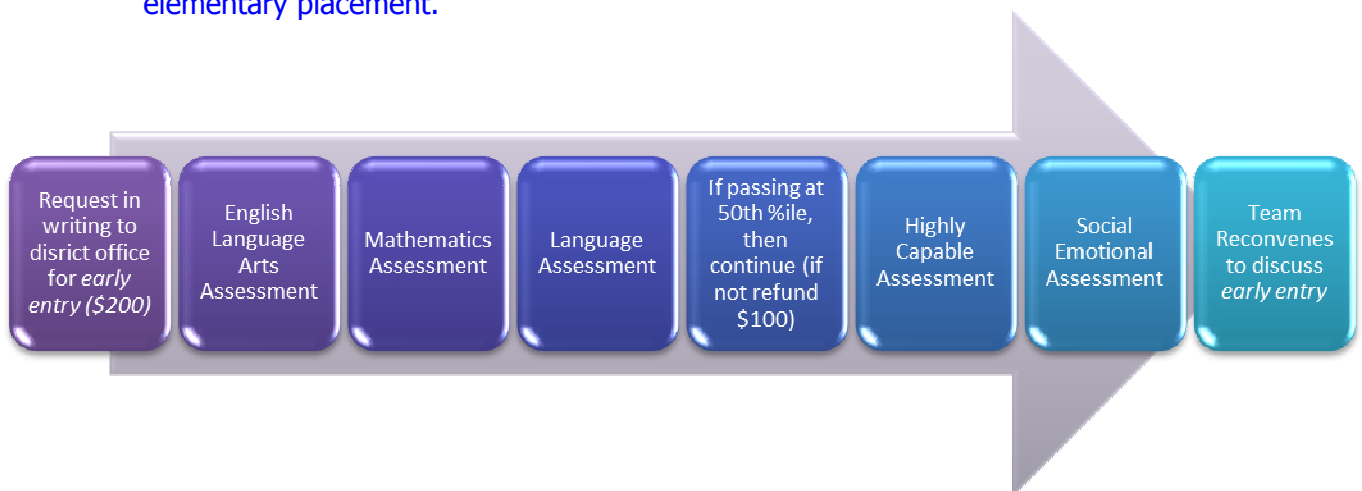
Kindergarten & First Grade Early Entry

According to the *Learning by Choice: Student Enrollment Options in Washington (revised July 2014 by OSPI)*, "Kindergarten students must be five on or before midnight August 31; first graders must be six. School districts may adopt regulations that provide for individual exceptions to these entry qualifications."

Current Ephrata School District Policy 3110 students (adopted 4/18/11) and Procedure 3110 (adopted 7/18/06) states that we do not make exemptions for kindergarten students.

On September 4, 2015 a team convened to discuss our current policy as it pertains to "early entry". At conclusion of the meeting the following process was established:

- Resident students (not considered "choice students" from other districts) who are not age 5 by August 31st may be eligible to be screened for early entry into kindergarten.
- There is a \$200 fee (or a sliding scale based upon Free & Reduced Lunch) due to the amount of specialized assessment during the school day from a variety of specialized district staff.
- Students are expected to score in the 50th percentile or higher based on the assessments. The assessment team will also base their decision for acceptance on data and professional judgement.
- The team will reconvene to evaluate acceptance and appropriate elementary placement.



The following team members were consulted in the creating of the process for early entry into Kindergarten for the Ephrata School District: Dr. Jerry Simon, District Superintendent, Charlotte Throgmorton, Federal Programs Director, Sharon Scellick, Curriculum Coordinator and Highly Capable Program Director, Rena Alvarez, District Psychologist, Shannon Dahl, Grant Elementary Principal, Scott Monson, Columbia Ridge Elementary Principal