

STUDENTS

Application for Exception to Entrance Age Requirement

Research and experience in education and child development have shown that children who enter school young for their grade level are at a greater risk for later lack of academic and/or social success than children who are either age-appropriate or somewhat older than their classmates. There are times when children may be academically ready for school, but they have not had the time to develop the emotional and social skills needed to be successful in a school setting. While this may not be apparent at the kindergarten level, it can become a much larger issue in the middle school and high school years.

Parents who wish to apply for an exception to entrance age Policy No. 3110 for their child must follow these procedures:

- A. Complete form 3110 R-F1, Application for Exception to Entrance Age Requirement, together with forms 3110 R-F2, 3110 R-F3, and 3110 R-F4 as described below.
 1. Completed applications should be delivered to the district administration building and submitted to the Director of Elementary Education. Applications will be accepted beginning on the day of spring kindergarten registration for the following year and must be received no later than August 1.
 2. Parents who plan to apply are encouraged to do so as early as possible. To be eligible for testing, the child must be 5 years old on or before December 1.

- B. Form 3110 R-F2 Information from Physician (optional) and 3110 R-F3 Information from Preschool Experience (if any).

Obtain statements and complete form 3110 R-F2 and form 3110 R-F3 regarding the child's readiness for school from any person(s) who are competent to make such judgments, if available. These may include the child's physician, preschool teacher, or others who know the child from a professional standpoint. If the child did not attend preschool, parents are requested to complete the form to the best of their knowledge. If the child has attended a private kindergarten, parents should obtain reports from the teacher of that kindergarten. Others may submit statements in letter form to be submitted with the completed forms.

- C. Form 3110 R-F4 Permission for Testing

Complete and sign form 3110 R-F4, giving consent to the Kennewick School District to test the child for school readiness. Assessments may include the following: intelligence, academic skills, language development, visual-motor skills, motor development, and such other areas as related to success in school.

Administrative Regulation No. 3110.2
Application for Exception to Entrance Age Requirements – Continued

1. Pay a nonrefundable testing fee as established by the School Board.
Checks or money orders should be made payable to the Kennewick School District testing will be done in August. You will be notified by letter of the exact day and time of your child's test.

Children for whom applications are received will be tested by an assessment team comprised of district staff members. In some instances, the assessment team may advise against testing based on the application information submitted. The fee will be refunded if no test is conducted.

Recommendation for early entry will not be based on whether the child is ready to start school, but whether the child is exceptionally advanced beyond typical children meeting entrance age requirements and who are likely to do as well entering school this year as next. Children will need an average age equivalent score of 5 years 6 months or better to be considered for early entrance.

For a child's school life to be positive and rewarding and not be a continual struggle, the assessment team will likely not recommend early entry for children who may be successful in school, but who would likely do even better by waiting another year and entering school at the normal entrance age. The questionnaire, which is completed as part of this application, will help parents determine whether their child may benefit from early school entrance. Consultation with the child's physician and others knowledgeable about the child, such as preschool teachers, will be of help to parents in making the decision.

All decisions regarding the early entrance testing will be made by the assessment team. Decisions of the team may be appealed to the superintendent or designee.

Adopted: September 8, 1993
Amended: April 18, 2003
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