

QUALIFICATIONS OF ATTENDANCE, AGES OF ENTRANCE AND PLACEMENT: 3110P

Placement

The decision of where to place a scholar seeking admission to the District rests with the principal. Generally, scholars meeting the age of admission requirements or transferring from a public or approved private school shall be placed in kindergarten or first grade, or the grade from which they transferred. The principal shall evaluate the educational record and assessments of all other scholars to determine their appropriate placement. A temporary classroom assignment may be made for no more than thirty (30) calendar days for the purpose of evaluation prior to making the final placement decision.

Ages of Entrance

To be admitted to a kindergarten program that commences in the fall of the year, a child must be five (5) years of age as of midnight, August 31, of the year of entry.

To be admitted to a first-grade program that commences in the fall of the year, a child must be six (6) years of age as of midnight, August 31, to enroll in the first grade.

Parents are required to submit a birth certificate, hospital certificate signed by the attending physician, or passport to confirm the age of their child.

Exemptions to the Uniform Entrance Policy for kindergarten are:

- A. To be considered for the Early Entry to Kindergarten Program, a child must be five (5) years old by midnight, October 31 of the year of entry. There are no exceptions to this date. Families interested in having a scholar assessed for early entry may have an outside agency/professional complete an assessment battery of school readiness in the areas of: mental ability, gross motor skills, fine motor skills, visual discrimination, auditory discrimination, and emotional/social development (See WAC 392-335-025, Local option exceptions to uniform entry qualifications). The parent is responsible for all fees.
- B. The evaluation scores and analysis must be received from the parent in the Teaching for Learning Department no later than August 15 of the year of entry to be considered. The qualifying score in each area is at least 5 years, 6 months age equivalent for placement as a kindergarten scholar.
- C. Scholars who reside within the Federal Way School District, and whose families, due to their low income, would have difficulty paying for the required assessments, may apply to the District for a waiver from paying for the assessments. To obtain a waiver, families would have to qualify under free and/or reduced-price lunch guidelines. Families who qualify under reduced price standards will be charged a \$15.00 co-payment, with the District assuming the remainder of the cost of the assessments. The District will assume the full cost of the assessments for families who qualify according to free lunch guidelines.

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- D. Children who qualify with at least 5 years, 6 months age equivalent in each assessment area may be enrolled for an evaluation period. During this time the kindergarten teacher and principal shall observe the child and in consultation with the school psychologist shall make a final determination regarding continuation. A determination will be made as soon as possible, but in no case will the evaluation period exceed thirty (30) calendar days. It is strongly recommended that the principal and/or teacher make a weekly report to the parent on the child's adjustment and progress. If it is recommended that the child's enrollment be discontinued in the kindergarten program, the principal, teacher, and parents will meet to inform the parents of the basis for the decision. The recommendation will then be formalized in writing.

Exemptions for Uniform Entrance Policy for First Grade are:

- A. Parents of children not eligible to enter first grade because their sixth (6) birthday falls after August 31, may request from the Superintendent's designee, and/or the elementary school principal, Form 3110 to waive the state age requirement based upon successful completion of kindergarten in a program which substantially equals or exceeds the basic education requirements of WAC 180-16-200 through 180-16-220. The completed Form 3110 must be received no later than August 15 of the year of entry.
- B. When the principal receives the EARLY ENTRY TO FIRST GRADE FORM 3110, signed by the principal of the kindergarten attended, the child may be enrolled for an evaluation period, not to exceed thirty (30) calendar days.
- C. After the evaluation period, the principal, teacher, and psychologist shall recommend the continuation in the first grade or appropriate grade level placement.

The District reserves the right to consider alternative placement at any time during the school year if it is believed the child's rate of learning, accelerate/decelerate causing potential harm to the child or the learning environment.

Admission of Scholars Aged Twenty-One or Older

- A. The scholar will petition to the Superintendent for admission. The petition will identify the scholar's name, age, address and grade level or program of study.
- B. If approved, the petition will specify the tuition fee to be paid, will be signed by the scholar and the Superintendent, and will constitute the written agreement required by law. It will be retained as a public document and made available to the state Superintendent of Public Instruction upon request.
- C. The tuition fee will be calculated in the same way the state Superintendent of Public Instruction determines the cost of educating a scholar in the District based on program

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enrollment. A scholar with a disability who was currently enrolled in the District before turning 21 and is finishing their course of study shall not pay tuition costs.