

STUDENT ADMISSION AND ACCELERATION

I. Students generally progress from grade level to grade level on an annual basis. Exceptions will be considered for all students, following the established procedures at each school for early admission or acceleration, outlined in Gifted and Talented Handbook.

II. Definitions

- A. *Early Admission:* The practice of admitting kindergarten students who are younger than 5 years of age or first grade students who are younger than 6 years of age by September 1 of a given academic calendar year.
- B. *Whole Grade Acceleration:* The practice of assigning a student to a higher grade level than is typical on a full-time basis for the purpose of providing access to appropriately challenging learning opportunities.
- C. *Single Subject Acceleration:* The practice of assigning a student to a higher grade level than is typical for the purpose of providing access to appropriately challenging learning opportunities in one or more subject areas.

III. Early Admission Requirements

Big Lake Schools has established the following criteria for early admission to kindergarten and first grade:

- A. Children considered for early entrance to kindergarten must be 5 years of age on a date after September 1 or before November 1 in the year of early entrance.
- B. Children considered for early entrance in grade 1 must be 6 years of age on a date after September 1 or before November 1 in the year of early entrance
- C. Standardized assessments will be used to determine:
 - 1. Student ability when compared to age appropriate measures.
 - 2. School readiness skills and developmental factors, when compared to age-appropriate readiness measures
 - 3. Social/emotional/functional skills, when compared to age appropriate readiness measures

IV. Acceleration Requirements

Big Lake Schools has established criteria for student acceleration, utilizing procedures outlined by the District.

- A. Standardized measures will be used to determine:
 - 1. Student achievement on group or individually administered achievement tests
 - 2. Student aptitude and problem-solving ability for material which has not yet been formally presented to the learner
 - 3. Student intellectual ability
 - 4. School and academic factors
 - 5. Developmental factors

V. Parameters

- A. In all cases of whole grade acceleration, a student will only advance one grade at a time.
- B. Acceleration will be done on a trial basis for the first trimester after the decision is made.
- C. Decisions are final, and acceleration may not be reviewed for one academic year.

Rationale: *Big Lake Schools strives to assure individual student success, by placing students in the instructional level best suited to their academic, social, and emotional needs.*

Legal References: *M.S. § 120.A.20 – Admission to Public School*
M.S. § 120B.15 – Gifted and Talented Students Programs
M.S. § 124.D.02 – School Board Powers; Enrollment