

503.1 EARLY ENTRANCE TO KINDERGARTEN

I. PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to provide a procedure for requests for early entry into kindergarten.

II. GENERAL STATEMENT OF POLICY

Minnesota Statute 120A.20 requires kindergarten students to be at least five years of age on September 1 unless a school board has established a policy for early entrance. This policy applies to parents/guardians who desire to enroll their child in kindergarten prior to the legal entrance age of five years on or before September 1.

The School District recognizes that children develop physically, emotionally and intellectually at their unique rates, resulting in varying levels of school readiness. An orderly determination for early entrance into kindergarten has been established by the Board of Education of Independent School District #881, Maple Lake, Minnesota.

III. PROCEDURES

In order to gain early admission to kindergarten, a prospective student must satisfy the following requirements.

- A. All prospective students are required to participate in early childhood screening.
- B. Each child must meet the cut off birth date of five years on or before October 15.
- C. Parents must apply in writing to the elementary principal by May 1. Application materials can be found on the Maple Lake Elementary website. Exceptions will only be made for parents who move into the district after May 1 and prior to the start of the school year.
- D. Appointment with Early Entrance Team: The parents/guardians and the child will meet with the Early Entrance Team, which includes the building principal, school psychologist and kindergarten teachers. Parents/guardians will complete the Early Entrance Checklist and an interview with the school psychologist while the kindergarten team interviews the child. If the team determines it appropriate, an observation would then be conducted in a simulated kindergarten environment.
- E. Parents/guardians will be notified by the building principal whether the child is recommended to proceed to the Evaluation/Cognitive Assessment process or if the child is not recommended for Early Entrance to Kindergarten.

- F. For those children recommended to proceed, an appointment will be made with the school psychologist who will conduct an individual intellectual assessment using the *Wechsler Preschool & Primary Scale of Intelligence (WPPSI 4)*. The kindergarten teacher(s) will also use a locally developed assessment to determine the child's readiness for kindergarten. An intellectual assessment conducted by an outside agency will be considered by the team, but does not fulfill the criteria.

- G. The principal, kindergarten teachers and school psychologist will meet with the parents/guardians to report the results and present options. Children who score at or above the 95th percentile on the WPPSI 4 and demonstrate exemplary skills on the locally developed assessment will be recommended for probationary admission to kindergarten.

Legal References:

Cross References: