

Standards for Early Admission to Kindergarten

Item	Description
Policy Title	Standards for Early Admission to Kindergarten
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.0105 EARLY ADMISSION TO KINDERGARTEN

- a. To determine the eligibility of a four-year-old child to enter kindergarten pursuant to the provisions of G.S. 115C-364(d), the principal shall confer with a committee of professional educators to consider for each child the following factors:
1. **Student Aptitude.** The child shall be precocious in academic and social development and shall score at the 98th percentile on a standard individual test of intelligence such as the Stanford-Binet, The Wechsler Preschool and Primary Scale of Intelligence, the Kaufman Anderson, or any other comparable test administered by a licensed psychologist.
 2. **Achievement.** The child shall be functioning from two to three years beyond the child's peers. The child shall score at the 98th percentile on either reading or mathematics on a standard test of achievement such as the Metropolitan Readiness Test, the Stanford Early School Achievement Test, The Mini Battery of Achievement, the Woodcock-Johnson, the Test of Early Mathematics Ability (TEMA), the Test of Early Reading Ability (TERA), or any other comparable test administered by a licensed psychologist, a member of the psychologist's professional staff, or a professional educator who is trained in the use of the instrument and who has no conflict of interest in the outcome of the assessment.
 3. **Performance.** The child shall be able to perform tasks well above age peers as evidenced by behaviors in one or more areas such as independent reading, problem solving skills, advanced vocabulary, and some writing fluency. The parent shall submit a sample of the child's work that shows outstanding examples of ability in any area including, but not limited to, art, mathematics, writing, dramatic play, creative productions, science, or social interactions. The principal may also require a teacher to complete an informal reading assessment of the child.
 4. **Observable Student Behavior/Student Interest.** The child shall demonstrate social and developmental maturity sufficient to participate in a structured setting for a full school day. The child shall be capable of following verbal instructions and functioning independently within a group. The parent shall provide two recommendation letters with specific documentation of physical and social maturity from preschool teachers, child care workers, pediatricians, or others who have direct knowledge of the child. Useful documentation checklists include the California Preschool Competency Scale, the Harrison Scale, or any other comparable scale of early social development.
 5. **Motivation/Student Interest.** The principal or principal's designee shall conduct an informal interview with the child and a more structured interview with the parent to determine if the child displays a thirst for knowledge and seeks new and challenging learning situations.
- b. The parent shall present the information required by this Rule to the principal within the first 30 calendar days of the school's instructional year. All testing shall be administered after the April 16th that follows the child's fourth birthday. The principal shall decide whether to grant the parent's request for enrollment within three weeks after receiving this information. The principal may conditionally enroll the child for up to ninety days in order to observe whether the child is able to adjust to the school setting. If the principal determines that the child has not adjusted to the school setting, the principal shall deny the request for enrollment. However, before the child is exited from school, the principal shall invite the parent to assist in the development of intervention strategies for the child. If those strategies are not successful, the principal shall provide the parent at least 10 days notice before exiting the child from school so the parent may arrange child care, if needed.
- c. LEAs may require parents to supply information in addition to that required by this Rule. LEAs may also require specific tests or other measures to provide information relating to the factors listed in Paragraph (a) of this Rule.

- d. Early admission to kindergarten shall not automatically result in the placement of the child in the program for academically gifted students. By the time the child has been enrolled for 90 calendar days, or at any earlier time that school officials determine that the child has adjusted satisfactorily and shall be allowed to remain in school, the gifted identification team shall review the child's information to determine if the child shall receive gifted services. If the team determines that the child shall receive gifted services, it shall develop either a differentiated education plan or an individual differentiated education plan for the child.

History Note: Authority G.S. 115C-364(d); N.C. Constitution, Article IX, Sec. 5;

Temporary Adoption Eff. August 18, 1997;

Eff. March 15, 1999.

Policy 4100 Age Requirements For Initial Entry

The Duplin County Board of Education requires all students to meet the eligibility requirements for school admission established by the state and the Board, including age. Any parent or guardian who is unclear whether a child meets the age requirements is encouraged to contact the superintendent's office or the elementary school that the child is likely to attend.

A. ENTITLEMENT TO INITIAL ENTRY

A child who is presented for enrollment at any time during the first 120 days of a school year will be considered eligible for initial entry in any of the following circumstances.

1. The child reaches or reached the age of five on or before August 31 of that school year.
2. The child resided in another state and was attending school during that school year in accordance with that state's laws or rules prior to moving to North Carolina. (The child does not need to reach the age of five on or before August 31 in this circumstance.)
3. The child did not reach the age of five on or before August 31 of that school year but would be eligible to attend school during that school year in another state in accordance with the laws or rules of that state, and if all of the following apply:
 - a. the child's parent is a legal resident of North Carolina who is an active member of the uniformed services assigned to a permanent duty station in another state;
 - b. the child's parent is the sole legal custodian of the child;
 - c. the child's parent is deployed for duty away from the permanent duty station; and
 - d. the child resides with an adult who is a domiciliary of a local school administrative unit in North Carolina as a result of the parent's deployment away from the permanent duty station.

B. DISCRETIONARY ENROLLMENTS

The Board may allow a child to be enrolled in either of the following circumstances.

1. The child is presented for enrollment after the first 120 days of a school year and meets one of the circumstances specified above for entitlement to initial entry.
2. The child reached the age of four on or before April 16; the child is presented for enrollment no later than the end of the first month of the school year; and the principal of the school finds, based on information submitted by the child's parent or guardian, that the child is gifted and has the maturity to justify admission to school. The Board regards admission of a four-year-old child to be an extraordinary measure that should not to be used merely because the child is developmentally advanced. In making such a determination, the principal shall follow guidelines established by the State Board of Education.

C. GRADE LEVEL OF INITIAL ENTRY

The initial point of entry will be the kindergarten level. After initial entry, a principal may move the child to the first grade if the principal determines that by reason of maturity, the child may be served more appropriately in the first grade.

D. EVIDENCE OF AGE

When a child is presented for admission for the first time, the principal shall require the parent or guardian of the child to furnish a certified copy of the child's birth certificate or other competent and verifiable evidence of the child's date of birth. Such evidence may include, but is not limited to: (1) a certified copy of any medical record of the child's birth issued by the treating physician or the hospital in which the child was born; or (2) a certified copy of a birth certificate issued by a church, mosque, temple or other religious institution that maintains birth records of its members.

A birth certificate or other satisfactory proof of age issued by a foreign country or institution will be accepted and treated in the same manner as comparable documents issued in the United States. School officials shall

use such documents only for the purpose of establishing the age of the child and not to inquire about the citizenship or immigration status of the child, parent or guardian.

For a student who is in foster care or considered homeless, the inability to provide documentation must not prevent immediate enrollment of the student. School officials, or in the case of a homeless student, the homeless liaison, shall immediately contact the last school the student attended to obtain relevant enrollment records or other information needed for enrollment. These officials shall work with the student, the parent or guardian, school personnel, and other agencies as necessary to obtain enrollment information in a timely manner.

Legal References: Elementary and Secondary Education Act, [20 U.S.C. 6311\(g\)\(1\)\(E\)](#); McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act, [42 U.S.C. 11431 et seq.](#); [G.S. 115C-288, -364; 130A-109; 16 N.C.A.C. 6E.0105](#); State Board of Education Policy [GCS-J-001](#)

Cross References: Homeless Students (policy [4125](#))

Adopted: April 23, 2013

Revised: February 7, 2017

Duplin County Schools