

ENTRANCE AGE

Any pupil whose fifth birthday falls on or before September first of any calendar year may be enrolled in the kindergarten class in September of that same year. Any child whose sixth birthday falls on or before September first of any calendar year may enter grade one in September of that year.

LEGAL REFS.: M.G.L. 15:1G
Board of Education Regulations for Entrance to First Grade and Kindergarten,
adopted 7/20/71

CROSS REF.: JEBA, Policy and Procedure for Early Entrance to Kindergarten

POLICY AND PROCEDURE FOR EARLY ENTRANCE TO KINDERGARTEN

The district recognizes that children develop cognitively, socially, emotionally, and physically at different rates. Generally students are best served when they enter school at the age research indicates is most conducive to long term success. However, students whose birth dates closely miss the cutoff date for school attendance may have social, emotional, and academic needs that warrant early admission to kindergarten. In consideration of the individual needs of students, the following procedures will be followed to determine eligibility for early entrance to kindergarten:

1. Requests by parents/guardians for early placement of children who will be five (5) years old after September 1st of the enrollment year should be made in writing to the school Principal by May 1st.
2. Written requests for consideration should include the following: 1) parent/s, guardians name 2) address 3) telephone number 4) child's name 5) name of preschool attended and written permission to allow communication with preschool staff. Requests should include a (certified?) copy of the child's birth certificate, and proof of residency.
3. Varied assessments will be administered to determine whether or not the child being considered has developmental skills sufficiently advanced for successful participation in kindergarten. The assessment process may include an interview with the child by the classroom teacher and/or the school-based team. Assessment for determination of eligibility will be at the parents' expense.
4. Parents will receive notification of a testing schedule by assigned test administrator/s. Testing instruments and results will be discussed and shared with parents.
5. A school-based assistance team will review documentation and information that will assist in determining eligibility for kindergarten placement. The final decision to determine eligibility for early entrance will be made by the building Principal.
6. Parents will be notified in writing of a child's eligibility for early entrance. If parents are not satisfied with a decision, they may appeal in writing to the Superintendent of Schools.
7. Candidates for early entry will be considered for either a half-day or full-day kindergarten program based on assessment data and space available.
8. Candidates for early entry will not be considered for placement if placement causes kindergarten enrollment to exceed the maximum recommended class size determined by the School Committee.
9. During the first quarter of the school year, the child's transition to kindergarten will be reviewed. If a child is accepted for early entrance, and it is determined by the classroom teacher and school-based assistance team that it is not in the best interest of the child to complete the school year, parents will be notified and recommended to reduce the schedule to a half day program or withdraw the child until he/she is age eligible.

Approved by School Committee: 5/25/06

Enrollment of the Children of School Department Personnel

In addition to those children, who as a matter of law, are entitled to enroll in the Cohasset Public Schools, a dependent of a professional staff member may enroll in the Cohasset Public Schools provided the student does not require an out of district placement. Students must be in good standing and make application to the Superintendent prior to July 1 of the year for which attendance is requested. A non-resident staff member who enrolls his/her child in the Cohasset Public Schools pre-Kindergarten or Full-Day Kindergarten programs shall be required to pay any regular tuition or fees that may be charged to Cohasset residents' children.

Dependents of professional staff members are not automatically eligible to participate in the lottery system for admission into full day kindergarten. They may be enrolled in full-day kindergarten on a first-come, first-serve basis provided that there is no waiting list of Cohasset residents. Dependents of professional staff members are also not automatically eligible to participate in the lottery system for the integrated pre-school program. They may participate in the integrated pre-school program if there is no lottery for the program and no waiting list of Cohasset residents. Participants must meet the criteria as outlined in the integrated pre-school program requirements and all acceptances require the approval of the Director of Student Services.

The benefit is available only so long as the student's parent or legal guardian is permanently employed in the Cohasset Public Schools.

Students who are enrolled pursuant to this policy are subject to all rules and regulations that apply to other students in the Cohasset Public Schools.

Updated: July, 2017

SCHOOL ADMISSIONS

All children of school age who reside in the town will be entitled to attend the public schools, as will certain children who do not reside in the town but who are admitted under School Committee policies relating to nonresident students or by specific action of the School Committee.

Advance registration for prospective kindergarten students will take place by a date set by the district. Every student seeking admission to school for the first time must present a birth certificate or equivalent proof of age acceptable to the Principal, proof of vaccination and immunizations as required by the state and the School Committee. Proof of residency of legal guardianship may also be required by the school administration.

LEGAL REFS.: CROSS REFS.:

M.G.L. 15:1G; 76:1; 76:5; 76:15; 76:15A 603 CMR 26:01; 26:02; 26:03

JLCA, Physical Examination of Students JLCB, Inoculations of Students
JFBB, School Choice

UPDATED: April 2017