

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