

**Tumwater School District
Procedures**

QUALIFICATION OF ATTENDANCE AND PLACEMENT

The general philosophy of the Tumwater School District and staff is that most children are more successful with their same age peers, and should discourage early entrance except in rare cases. If, during conversations with the parent/guardian, there are indications that the child is not significantly advanced in all areas, the parent should be discouraged from further assessment. Careful consideration should be given to the child's background, including preschool or other situations where the child has had an opportunity to compete with and relate to other youngsters their same age or older.

General guidelines for early entrance that have been shown to be successful in predicting school success include:

1. Full scale I.Q. of 130 or above.
2. Strong or superior ratings in all other required areas.
3. Age within 2 weeks of the August 31st cut-off date.
4. Size and physical skills appropriate for kindergarten or first grade.
5. Prediction that the student will perform near the top of the proposed class and will continue to perform at that level throughout his or her schooling.

The following procedures shall be utilized for processing requests for exceptions to the Tumwater School District's minimum entry age policy:

1. Child must be 5 years old on or before September 15th.
2. Not later than the end of the school year, the parent/guardian should arrange a conference with the principal of the elementary school nearest their home. At that conference, the principal will discuss with the parent/guardian the District's early admission policy and philosophy, and answer any questions the parent/guardian may have about this procedure. Should the parent/guardian decide to continue, the principal will refer them to the Supervisor of Elementary Education or designee.
3. The Supervisor of Elementary Education or designee will discuss the application procedures with the parent/guardian. If the parent/guardian continues to feel that early admission is desirable, the Supervisor of Elementary Education or designee will request the contact information regarding the student and arrange for assessments in August.

Parents/guardians who wish to have the District's assessment office evaluate their child can schedule an appointment during the first two weeks of August. The District will use assessments such as the Dynamic Indicators of Basic Early Literacy Skills (DIBELS), the Vineland Adaptive Behavior Scales, or other assessments to determine academic readiness. Results will be discussed with the principal for further consideration.

4. The Supervisor of Elementary Education or designee, the Director of Special Services, and the principal will review the results of the conferences, history, and assessment results. They will also include consideration of the child's:
 - A. Emotional/social development
 - B. Cognitive ability
 - C. Gross motor skills
 - D. Fine motor skills
 - E. Visual discrimination
 - F. Auditory discrimination
5. This process does not guarantee the child will be accepted for early entrance. The team will decide acceptance or denial of the application. One of the above staff members will review the evaluation and discuss the decision with the parent/guardian.
6. Early Entrance acceptance must include a four to six (4-6) week trial period. The principal and team will come together and evaluate the student's progress not later than six (6) weeks after the student's first day of school.

IMPLEMENTED: January 16, 2018

REVISED: April 4, 2023