

I. BACKGROUND

- A. State law indicates “No person shall be admitted to any public school (1) as a kindergarten pupil, unless the pupil is at least five years of age on September 1 of the calendar year in which the school year for which the pupil seeks admission commences...except that any school board may establish a policy for admission of selected pupils at an earlier age” (Minn. State. §120A.20 Admission to Public School). State charter school law allows instruction to be provided to “people younger than five years” (Minn. Stat. §124D.10, Subd. 8. (f)).

II. PURPOSE

- A. The purpose of these procedures is to provide guidelines for early entrance for students into The School (the school)). Students’ early entrance success is contingent on mature levels of social, emotional and academic proficiency. The early entrance assessment is designed to select students who demonstrate superior development in all of these areas. Only a small number of students are recommended for early entrance to kindergarten

III. THE PROCEDURE FOR KINDERGARTEN

A. Part 1: Initial Screening

- 1.Children 5 years of age, on or before September 1st, are eligible to enter kindergarten. If a child’s birth date falls on a date after September 1st but before October 31st parents may request early entrance by May 1st. Exceptions to this policy may be petitioned to the school board.
- 2.The parents must follow the school’s open enrollment procedures and are still bound to the same early childhood screening requirements outlined in state statute (Minn. Stat. 121A.17).
- 3.In the spring, families applying for their child’s early admission will participate in an organized kindergarten classroom lesson and additional academic assessment. Selected members of The School’s Early Entrance Committee will observe and evaluate the children on academic skills, social and emotional maturity, and classroom behaviors There is no cost associated with this part of the assessment.
- 4.The School’s Early Entrance Committee will make a recommendation to either continue the child through the evaluation process or that the child should wait to start kindergarten until he/she is the appropriate age.

B. Part 2: Data Gathering

- 1.If the process continues, the parents will be notified and the child will be referred to formalized standardized-based assessment.
- 2.The School’s Early Entrance Child Information Sheet must be completed by a parent or guardian.

3. Although preschool is not required, it is recommended. The parent will obtain information from the preschool teacher indicating areas in which this child exceeds expectations. Any explanations or examples that would benefit the Early Entrance Committee should be included.
4. A licensed school psychologist must complete the initial formal assessment. The parents may choose to use one of the school psychologists contracted by the school. The cost of the assessment will be borne by the parent. The Kaufman Assessment Battery for Children, Second Edition (KABC-II) is the only assessment the district will accept. The child must obtain a Fluid-Crystallized Index score of 115 or better to be considered eligible.
5. The psychologist's summary shall include the results of the KABC-II and the child's attendance to task and other relevant behaviors throughout the assessment session.
6. All data must be collected and submitted to the Lower School Principal or designee of the school by June 30 and placed in the student's cumulative file.

C. Part 3: Criteria for Early Entrance

1. A Fluid-Crystallized Index score of 115 or better on the KABC-II must be achieved. However, students who have a cognitive ability score lower than 115, but are within the 95% confidence interval to the target score of 115 may also be considered. Other criteria should be met at a high standard.
2. Academic achievement results must be at the 90th percentile level or better (i.e., one year ahead of the child's chronological age.)
3. Social/emotional maturity, academic motivation and persistence must be demonstrated by the child during assessment and observations.

D. Part 4: Recommendation Procedures

1. The School Early Entrance Committee will meet to consider each early entrance candidate. This committee is comprised of an administrator, a kindergarten teacher, a school psychologist, and others as deemed appropriate.
2. Parents will be notified of the decision of the committee by May 10. If early entrance is not recommended, parents may request a meeting with the Principal or designee in order to offer further explanation.

IV. THE PROCEDURE FOR FIRST GRADE

- A. Early Entrance to First Grade is dependent on successful completion of kindergarten.
- B. If a child has attended kindergarten in another school and is not age-eligible for grade 1 at The School, academic records and a

Early Entrance Procedures for Kindergarten and First Grade **Policy 142**

recommendation from the prior school to attend first grade at The School will be required.

Adopted: 08/13/2013
Amended: 10/09/2018
Amended: 06/18/2024