

**INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 111
WATERTOWN-MAYER PUBLIC SCHOOLS
BOARD OF EDUCATION POLICY**

607.1 EARLY ENTRANCE INTO KINDERGARTEN

I. PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to define the perimeters that will allow parents and the District to define what stipulations are to be met before enrolling a child into kindergarten if the student is not five years of age on or before September 1.

I. GENERAL STATEMENT OF POLICY

The Board of Education of Independent School District #111 will consider early entrance into kindergarten if the following stipulations are met:

- A. Residents must notify the district of their wish to have a student tested by April 1. New residents must notify the district by August 1.
- B. The early entrance evaluation process includes several steps, starting with the application and preschool teacher recommendations. These are submitted to the principal of Watertown-Mayer Elementary School prior to April 1st. The Principal, Kindergarten Teachers and the district School Psychologist will review the recommendations.
- C. An appointment is set up for the parent to bring their child to WMES for a classroom observation/participation opportunity initially. The child will spend approximately 2 hours in a kindergarten setting interacting with the children and participating in classroom activities, while being observed by both the Teacher and School Psychologist. In addition the school psychologist will administer a diagnostic assessment typically given in early kindergarten.
- D. Observations will be documented of whether the child demonstrates the readiness and maturity in social and language development expected to justify moving forward with further assessment.
- E. The testing must be completed before August.
- F. Line of command for decision:
 - a. Kindergarten teacher, principal, and school psychologist will confer and discuss the child's evaluation results;
 - b. Principal makes a recommendation to the Superintendent;
 - c. Superintendent makes a recommendation to the Board. All must approve before the decision is final.
- G. All costs for the assessments will be borne by the parents or guardians of the child.

Adopted/ Revised/ Reviewed:

Revised: April 26, 2021
Reviewed: January 24, 2022
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Reviewed: July 22, 2024