

**Conestoga Public Schools Regulations for Early Entrance to Kindergarten  
Board Policy # 5055**

**Minimum Age:** A child shall be eligible for admission into kindergarten at the beginning of the school year if the child is five years of age or will be five years of age on or before July 31st of the current school year. The district shall admit a child who will reach the age of five between August 1st and October 15th of the year of enrollment if the parent or guardian requests enrollment and provides an affidavit stating that:

1. The child attended kindergarten in another jurisdiction in the current school year;
2. The family anticipates a relocation to another jurisdiction that would allow admission within the current year; or
3. The child is capable of completing kindergarten work and expectations, which can be demonstrated through a recognized assessment procedure approved by the school board.

**Early Admission to Kindergarten:** The outlined assessment procedures for determining if a child is capable of completing kindergarten work and expectations are approved and shall be made available to interested persons. At a minimum, eligibility for the admission shall be based upon an analysis of the child's:

1. Cognitive Ability - Scoring at or above the 85th percentile on a standardized assessment of intellectual ability. Such assessments could include the Wechsler Preschool and Primary Scale of Intelligence - 4th Edition (WPPSI-IV).
2. Social Emotional Development - An assessment of Social-Emotional Development such as the Behavior Assessment for Children - 3rd Edition (BASC-3).
3. Pre-Academic Skills - Scoring at or above the 75th percentile on a test of pre-academic skills. Such assessments could include the Kaufman Test of Achievement - Third Edition (KTEA-3).

Early entrance into kindergarten will be based on meeting or exceeding all assessment scores. Parents will be notified in writing of the results of the Early Entrance assessment and the determination of the district team. A copy of the Early Entrance assessment will also be placed in the child's permanent school record. There is no provision in this procedure for a reevaluation, retest or parental appeal of the decision of the school team. At the discretion of the Superintendent or designee, the assessments may be administered by the School District's professional staff.

A team approach is used in making a decision concerning early entrance into kindergarten. The team shall consist of a general educator with knowledge of the kindergarten curriculum, a school administrator, and persons who are trained to administer and interpret the results of the assessments. The decision regarding early entrance to kindergarten requires consideration of all factors that affect kindergarten success, including academic, social-emotional readiness, as

well as the student's physical development and well-being. The final determination will be made based on the recommendation of the district evaluation team.

Should the parent request to move forward with the assessment process, they must provide the school district with the following items:

- A signed copy of the child's birth certificate
- A signed consent form to evaluate, which includes a parent questionnaire
- A copy of a reference letter from someone who is well acquainted with the child but not a relative of the child. The person providing this reference should know the child well enough that they can speak with some expertise about the child's attributes and abilities. The reference letter should indicate whether this person recommends the child be schooled with children who will be a year older than the child, and if so, the evidence this person has regarding the child's cognitive ability, social-emotional development, fine and gross motor abilities, visual and auditory discrimination, and communication skills. This reference letter could include a preschool teacher, daycare provider or physician.

The evaluation request, consent form, birth certificate and reference letter must be completed and returned to the District no later than May 25th of the spring before fall enrollment to allow summer assessment to be completed.

Decisions regarding early kindergarten entrance must include consideration of the above and shall not be made based on sex, disability, race, color, religion, veteran status, national or ethnic origin, age, marital status, pregnancy, childbirth or related medical condition, sexual orientation or gender identity, or other protected status of the child's parents or guardians. Institutional factors, such as capacity, may also be considered.

Adopted on: 9/10/24

Revised on: \_\_\_\_\_

Reviewed on: \_\_\_\_\_