

Entrance Age and Requirements

North Dakota law sets the age at which a child may be enrolled in school.

Kindergarten Requirements

A child may not enroll in kindergarten unless the child has reached the age of five (5) before August first of the year of enrollment unless:

1. The child will be five (5) years old before December first and;
2. The child, by means of developmental and readiness screening instruments approved by the superintendent of public instruction and administered by the District, can demonstrate superior academic talents or abilities and social and emotional readiness; or
3. The child has been enrolled in another approved kindergarten.

Per NDCC 15.1-20-01(2), if a person enrolls a child of age six in a public school, the person shall ensure the child attends the public school for the duration of each school year. The person may withdraw a child of age six from the public school. However, once the child is withdrawn, the person may not re-enroll the child until the following school year. This subsection does not apply if the reason for the withdrawal is the child's relocation to another school district.

Grade One Requirements

A child may not enroll in grade one unless the child has reached the age of six (6) before August first of the year of enrollment unless:

1. The child will be six (6) years old before December first and;
2. The child, by means of development and readiness screening instruments approved by the superintendent of public instruction and administered by the District, can demonstrate superior academic talents or abilities and social and emotional readiness; or
3. The child has completed an approved kindergarten program.

Early Entrance Based on Academic, Social, and Emotional Readiness

A parent may choose to enroll their student in either kindergarten or first grade if the student (1) meets the age requirements and (2) the student demonstrates academic, social, and emotional readiness. The procedure for early identification for kindergarten and/or first grade readiness in the Fargo Public School District ("District") is as follows:

1. A pre-evaluation discussion is held with the parent or guardian to determine the basis for early entrance testing and inform the parent or guardian of the standards and criteria for early entrance and evaluation procedures.
2. A Parents or guardian who wishes to proceed with the assessment process must submit an early entrance application. The early entrance application deadline is April 15 of the year preceding desired attendance. Parents who proceed with the testing will be charged a fee.
3. An individual intelligence or achievement screening test is given. Screening instruments may include, but are not limited to, a kindergarten readiness assessment, a visual motor

integration assessment, an intelligence assessment, or a vocabulary assessment as noted in an approved list by the North Dakota Department of Public Instruction. The child must achieve an intelligence quotient in the superior range in order to be considered for further evaluation.

4. If the student meets the criteria in section three, an individual intelligence test will be given by qualified personnel. The intelligence test data is reviewed. Upon this review, an additional assessment of developmental readiness may also be requested.
5. A post-evaluation conference will be held with the student's parents or guardian to review the evaluation and the placement decision.
6. Following the post-evaluation conference, if the student meets the entrance criteria as outlined in this policy, the parent or guardian will be authorized to enroll their student in the appropriate grade based on age.

Transfer Students and Military Students

The District will honor early admission evaluation decisions made by other North Dakota school districts. The District will also honor early admission decisions made by other U.S. school districts for military children governed by N.D.C.C. 15.1-04.1-01 and worldwide for military children governed by N.D.C.C. 15.1-04.1-01. Despite these exceptions, the District will still require a nine-week probationary period for any student who transfers into the District and is younger than the state minimum age of attendance for kindergarten or first grade.

Legal Citations

N.D.C.C. 15.1-06-01

N.D.C.C. 15.1-22-02

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