



Board of Education Informational Report

MEMORANDUM

Date: March 27, 2019
To: Policy and Governance Committee
From: Judy Brennan, Enrollment and Transfer Director
Subject: **Response to community feedback on revised policy 4.10.020-P**

At the March 14, 2019 Policy and Governance committee meeting, Board member Paul Anthony presented to the committee public comments and questions gathered through a personal Facebook post. Staff agreed to review the feedback and provide a response in advance of the committee's next scheduled meeting.

The Facebook feedback consists of 26 questions and comments in the following categories:

- Age at kindergarten entry (16 comments)
- Placement for students with limited prior records (4 questions/3 comments)
- Other (2 questions/1 comments)

It is the nature of Facebook that many comments were expressions of personal experience or response to prior comments. We appreciate the input provided, but limited responses to clarification of the proposed policy. The staff team who reviewed the comments did not find any issues that warranted revision to the draft policy changes.

Half the comments received pertain to late entry to kindergarten. Oregon law and PPS policy do not limit parents' choice to have their children begin kindergarten at age six instead of age five. However, current data shows that few families exercise this option. This year nearly 95% of all kindergartners were five years old at the start of this school year, while 4.8% were six years old (late entry), and only .5% were four years old (early entry). The attached chart shows the breakdown by age and school, and indicates there is a distinct pattern of late entry for boys and early entry for girls.

Thank you for the opportunity to review and respond to community feedback.

Attachments: 2018-19 Kindergartners by age
Age & Grade policy facebook comments

Cc: Claire Hertz, Liz Large, Rosanne Powell, Nancy Hauth, Mary Kane, Veronica Magallanes, Elisa Schorr, Linda Smith

2018-19 Kindergartners by Age

SUMMARY

Age at start of kindergarten	Count	%
Birthdate before 09/02/2012 (6 years old at start of school)	188	4.80%
Birthdate between 09/02/2012 and 09/02/2013 (5 years old at start of school)	3689	94.60%
Birthdate after 09/02/2013 (4 years old at start of school)	22	0.05%

COUNT BY GENDER--Kindergartners who are 4 or 6 years old at the start of the school year

Age at start of kindergarten	Gender	Count	%
Birthdate before 09/02/2012 (6 years old at start of school)	F	68	36.20%
	M	120	63.80%
Birthdate after 09/02/2013 (4 years old at start of school)	F	18	81.80%
	M	4	18.20%

COUNT BY SCHOOL--Kindergartners by birthdate

School Enrolled in Kindergarten 2018-19	Birthdate before 09/02/2012	Birthdate between 09/02/2012 and 09/02/2013	Birthdate after 09/02/2013	Grand Total
Abernethy	7	78		85
Ainsworth	12	89		101
Alameda	8	95	4	107
Arleta	4	66		70
Arthur Academy	2	25		27
Astor	1	42		43
Atkinson	3	68		71
Beach	1	77		78
Beverly Cleary	3	65	1	69
Boise-Eliot/Humboldt	1	47		48
Bridger	1	57		58
Bridlemile	3	75	2	80
Buckman	2	73	1	76
Capitol Hill	3	62		65
César Chávez	2	58		60
Chapman	2	48	2	52
Chief Joseph	4	52		56
Cm2 Opal School	2	14		16
Creative Science	4	41	1	46
Creston	2	39	1	42
Duniway	9	67	1	77
Emerson School	4	19		23
Faubion		88		88
Forest Park	5	55		60
Glencoe	4	61		65
Grout	4	63		67
Harrison Park	1	72		73
Hayhurst	5	86	1	92
Irvington	3	54		57
James John	3	68		71

2018-19 Kindergartners by Age

COUNT BY SCHOOL--Kindergartners by birthdate

School Enrolled in Kindergarten 2018-19	Birthdate before 09/02/2012	Birthdate between 09/02/2012 and 09/02/2013	Birthdate after 09/02/2013	Grand Total
Kairos PDX	1	38		39
Kelly	4	82	1	87
Laurelhurst	5	69	1	75
Le Monde	1	52		53
Lee	1	50		51
Lent		46		46
Lewis	2	61		63
Llewellyn	4	72	1	77
Maplewood	6	62	1	69
Markham	4	67		71
Marysville	2	37		39
Metro. Learning Center		22		22
MLK Jr		56		56
Peninsula	1	52	1	54
Portland Village School	4	37		41
Richmond	8	95		103
Rieke	2	50	1	53
Rigler	1	51		52
Rosa Parks	1	44		45
Rose City Park	8	93	1	102
Sabin	6	82	1	89
Scott	4	65		69
Sitton		64		64
Skyline		24		24
Special Education				
Instruction	1	5		6
Stephenson	4	61		65
Sunnyside				
Environmental	1	44		45
Trillium		8		8
Vernon	1	70		71
Vestal		56		56
Whitman	2	33		35
Winterhaven	1	22		23
Woodlawn		71		71
Woodmere	3	51		54
Woodstock	5	93		98
Grand Total	188	3689	22	3899

Facebook comments regarding revisions to policy 4.10.020-P

Comment/question	Category	Staff Response
What is it that changing this will accomplish? What are we trying to fix?	Various	We are trying to make it clear to all stakeholders the rules for enrolling new students based on their age or prior school experience.
Why wasn't sped included in the revision team?	Various	The Special Education department was one of many departments made aware of the proposed changes and offered an opportunity to comment.
Why aren't kids with "limited records" being evaluated for academic needs?	Placement for students with limited prior records	This policy ensure that as a district we DO evaluate stuent records. The "limited records" only means that we evaluate records that are presented to us even if they may not include official transcripts for example. Not all students registering in PPS come with full academic transcripts so it is very important that we evaluate all the documents and information presented to us by the student and families.
What is the literature/data on placing kids with age-peers vs academic level?	Placement for students with limited prior records	Curricular and Extracurricular Programs EL students must have access to their grade-level curricula so that they can meet promotion and graduation requirements. School districts also should place EL students in age-appropriate grade levels so that they can have meaningful access to their grade-appropriate curricula and an equal opportunity to graduate. https://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocr/letters/colleague-el-201501.pdf Students who are retained may experience short-term gains in academic subjects (e.g., reading and math), they later experience declines in school performance, particularly during adolescence, and are more likely to drop out of school. https://www2.ed.gov/rschstat/eval/title-iii/crdc-retention-completion.pdf According to Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, it is a violation if limited English proficient (LEP) students are retained in grade for failure to demonstrate basic skills in English. The same policies that apply to all students in the school system regarding age-appropriate grade placement should also be followed for LEP students. To have disparate and indiscriminate placement policies and/or practices solely based on lack of English language proficiency can prove to be detrimental to the students, well as determined to be a

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Comment/question	Category	Staff Response
Do we have an ability to test and assess the newcomers through an interview? If we do then I prefer that kids be assigned based on their academic knowledge.	Placement for students with limited prior records	PPS Newcomer Guide has a thorough intake process to help determine student prior schools (i.e. intake, native assesement, parent/student information collection, ELPA21 for language proficiency, SIFE data etc.)
Unless they change what kindergartners need to master, FOR KINDERGARTEN - THEY NEED TO BE 5 BY MARCH 1. Sick and tired of these babies being asked to things that are NOT developmentally appropriate. AND NO EARLY ENTRY. PERIOD.	Various	
BTW - The entire state of Oregon needs to change the age when children SHOULD BE IN SCHOOL. No more of this 7 year old b*****. Children need to be required to be in kindergarten and aged 5 by March 1. Talk to me more if you need information.	Various	
Redshirting (starting kids who turned 6 the summer prior to k) is problematic. My girl turned 5 in late August & her preschool said there was no reason to hold her back, she was ready. And she was. But her kindergarten classroom was full of children who were turning 6 before Xmas, fully a year older than she was. Academic expectations change when half the class is a year older.	Enrolling students who are six years old in kindergarten	See 2018-19 Kindergartners by age
Because many parents are automatically holding their child back even when they are a perfectly averagely developing 5 yo not bc their child is behind. Many parents can't financially make that choice bc they can't justify paying another year of daycare.	Enrolling students who are six years old in kindergarten	
If you remove the financial issue, or at least offer transitional kinder that would help for sure. In some parts of the country the redshirting is pretty extreme with lots of kids turning 7 in K. Not a huge issue at my kids school, though	Enrolling students who are six years old in kindergarten	
How do children have "limited educational records"? Even homeschool students have to show state standards. Thanks for explaining!	Placement for students with limited prior records	This is a reference to potential recent arrivers who do not have transcripts or who may have interrupted education.
I would assume coming from another country or moving around too much. Or missing a lot of school (with lack of assessments).	Placement for students with limited prior records	

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Comment/question	Category	Staff Response
I have seen kids who were unschooled or "unofficially homeschooled " not have any records	Placement for students with limited prior records	
As for personal experience, my oldest child (now in 9th grade) has a birthday on Sep 5th. He was plenty ready for Kinder the year he turned 5. We tried the early entry (paying the \$325 testing fee) which required he be in the top 95 or 98% of his age group which he missed slightly. I thought that was a pretty ridiculously high standard. Shouldn't he just need to be an average kindergartner? Someone born just 4 days earlier would have been admitted with no questions asked. We ended up enrolling him in a private school for kindergarten and enrolled him the next year in PPS for 1st grade. He's been fine.	Various	
Equity wise, what would make more sense is to not allow parental redshirting by choice. Sounds like they are trying to get rid of early entry, which is really only for gifted children right near the cut off - affects very very few children, and those that qualify typically are the kids who later qualify for access, in my limited experience (let me know if I'm wrong on this)	Enrolling students who are six years old in kindergarten	
With both my boys having summer birthdays and starting them at the correct time, I have regrets. They were not mature enough. We red shirted our younger one this year, repeating 8th grade at a different school before he begins high school. We would <u>too</u> hold them back a year at kindergarten if we had to do it again. BTW, he is one of MANY 8th grade boys doing this, we discovered a large number of people doing this "gift" for their boys before starting high school.	Enrolling students who are six years old in kindergarten	
My five year old started k the day he turned five. I worry about this decision all the time. I wonder if we should keep him in kindergarten again next year.	Enrolling students who are six years old in kindergarten	

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Comment/question	Category	Staff Response
Totally agree. My now Junior was ready for K. But by middle school being one of the youngest with a late July bday he was lagging socially. Have two more kids with Sept bdays that are much more socially at grade level.	Enrolling students who are six years old in kindergarten	
You have to enroll them in a different school to repeat a grade? Is that not a big deal socially for kids at that age?	Enrolling students who are six years old in kindergarten	
A different school with two other friends coincidentally doing the same thing. He is in a private school for one year. I've been amazed at how many 8th grade boys repeat 8th grade before high school.	Enrolling students who are six years old in kindergarten	
My son is a September 4 baby, so he was already 6 when he started K. I witnessed a readiness to spend that much structured time each day in many of the girls, but not in many of the boys. I wanted to keep him out a whole 'nother year, but it would have cost me nearly 1k/month in childcare.	Enrolling students who are six years old in kindergarten	
I'm concerned about holding kids back based on lack of educational records. reminds me of Florida's policy of holding back 3rd graders if they don't pass a standardized reading test. And withholding hs diplomas if students don't pass smarter balanced tests or the state determined equivalent. Also reminds me of a retired Pps admin who as a child immigrated to America and was placed in remedial math when they actually excelled in math but had learned a different way of doing math and was ESL.	Placement for students with limited prior records	
My twins are late September bdays so they turned 6 a few weeks in kinder last year. They are 2 of the handful of "older" now 1st graders in their classes. They have several 1st grade buddies that are nearly a full calendar year younger than them (like turning 7 late this summer). I have had several school teacher friends advise that boys specifically "redshirt" if possible, only to balance out maturity (physical and emotional) in the later elementary years and middle school years. I have a June bday and was the youngest in my grade. I hated it.	Enrolling students who are six years old in kindergarten	

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Comment/question	Category	Staff Response
I find it somewhat ironic that there are equity concerns about the fees parents are charged to do testing for early entry. The district paid for this for FRL eligible families until just a couple of years ago. It doesn't seem like taking that service away being a problem would have been hard to anticipate!	Various	
There is something missing from the two contiguous sections on 19 and 21 year olds. The old section on 19 year olds made sense as it talked about 19 year old who already had a diploma could stay in the district until the end of the school year in which they turned 19. But the part about "having a diploma" is left out of the new one. And the part about "until you turn 21" in the new version seems to already allow students to stay until 21, so why do we have to say they can stay til end of their 19-turning year, if they can already stay until they turn 21? At any rate, I'm glad they can still stay until 21, as we do have some late arriving ESL newcomers who want to keep on trying to graduate up til age 21.	Various	Changes were proposed because staff found the prior language regarding paying tuition to be unnecessary and 'ability to enroll as a 19 year old with a diploma' redundant.
Following PPS Sept(and missing magical October 1)cutoff was a nightmare for my kiddo. It caused years of damage, only remedied after later trying a whole grade acceleration and then still needed ACCESS to fix it. Some kids need the option to start when they are ready, regardless of their birthday.	Enrolling students who are six years old in kindergarten	