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. Children born between September 2 and October 15 who are deemed to have demonstrated superior cognitive ability and above average social and emotional maturity will be considered for early entrance into kindergarten. He/she must demonstrate academic skills approximately one year or more ahead of his/her chronological age as early entrance is a form of grade level acceleration.

B. The early entrance evaluation process is as follows:
   a. Parents wishing to pursue early entrance for their child must notify the district of their wish to have a student tested by April 1 by submitting a written notice to the elementary school principal.
   b. Elementary principal reaches out to interested parents to discuss the early entrance process and sends Early Entrance Application to family.
   c. Parents complete Early Entrance Application from and provide early childhood screening information if we do not already have this information on file.
   d. Elementary principal reaches out to child's preschool/early childhood teacher to complete Early Entrance to Kindergarten Preschool Checklist.
   e. Early Entrance Team (elementary principal, kindergarten teachers, school psychologist, elementary academic interventionists) meets to review parent's Early Entrance Application, and preschool/early childhood teacher's Early Entrance to Kindergarten Preschool Checklist. After reviewing information from these sources combined with early childhood screening data, Early Entrance Team determines if the child meets eligibility requirements to move forward with the early entrance process.
   f. If Early Entrance Team determines that the process should move forward, an appointment is set for the parent to bring their child to WMES for a classroom observation. 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 child will spend another hour with the school psychologist, as well as academic interventionists, who will administer IQ and diagnostic assessment typically given in early kindergarten. These assessments will provide information about the child's cognitive abilities and performance levels. For

early entrance consideration, a child will be expected to perform at a level consistent with a minimum of six months ahead of a typical student of chronological age on similar screening assessments. An IQ score of at least 130 is also required.

g. Following the screening process, the committee will meet to review the data and provide the parents with the results, a decision, and documentation within a timely manner.

D. The testing will be completed prior to the end of the school year.

F. Any costs for the assessments will be borne by the parents or guardians of the child.

Adopted/ Revised/ Reviewed:

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