

**ADMINISTRATIVE POLICIES OF THE  
MILWAUKEE PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

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**ADMINISTRATIVE POLICY 8.09  
EARLY ADMISSIONS**

**(1) EARLY ADMISSION TO FIVE-YEAR-OLD KINDERGARTEN**

(a) Pursuant to the authority granted to the Board under Wis. Stat. § 120.12(25), it is the policy of the Board to admit a child who is not 5 years old on or before September 1, as required by Wis. Stat. § 118.14(1), to five-year-old kindergarten under the following conditions and standards:

1. the child must, at the time of application for early admission, be enrolled in four-year-old kindergarten at an MPS school; and
2. the child must, as determined by an evaluation conducted by MPS, children who demonstrate the social, emotional, physical, and mental maturity normally expected for successful participation in kindergarten; and
3. the child must turn five years old by October 1.

(b) The procedure for evaluating a child for early admission to five-year-old kindergarten shall be as follows:

1. An application for early admission to five-year-old kindergarten and consent for psychological evaluation shall be completed by the parent/guardian at the MPS school where the child attends four-year-old kindergarten on or before October 1 of the year in which the child turns five. The application shall contain a statement that:
  - a. the parent/guardian would like to have the child evaluated for early admission to five-year-old kindergarten; and
  - b. the parent/guardian understands that an evaluation shall be given to determine whether or not the child should enter five-year-old kindergarten in the current school year; and
  - c. the parent/guardian understands that the child shall be given the evaluation only once.
2. The child shall be evaluated, at no cost to the parent/guardian, by a team of individuals employed by MPS, including an MPS-certified school psychologist, who shall determine whether the child demonstrates the social, emotional, physical, and mental maturity to enroll in five-year-old kindergarten.
3. The parent/legal guardian and the MPS school where the child is attending four-year-old kindergarten shall be notified in writing of the determination of MPS with respect to the application for early admission to five-year-old kindergarten. This determination shall be final.

(c) A child who has attended four-year-old kindergarten outside the state or in a non-public school, and who does not meet the age requirements for regular admission to five-year-old kindergarten, shall be considered for early admission if the child's parent/ guardian applies for early admission to five-year-old kindergarten on or before October 1.

(d) A child who has attended five-year-old kindergarten outside the state or in a non-public school, but does not meet the age requirements for regular admission to five-year-old kindergarten, shall be automatically enrolled in five-year-old kindergarten.

**(2) EARLY ADMISSION TO FIRST GRADE**

(a) Pursuant to the authority granted to the Board under Wis. Stat. § 120.12(25), it is the policy of the Board to admit a child who is not 6 years old on or before October 1, as required by Wis. Stat. § 118.14(1), to first grade under the following conditions and standards:

1. the child was admitted to and has successfully completed five-year-old kindergarten under this policy established pursuant to Wis. Stat. § 120.12(25); or
  2. the child has successfully completed a program for five-year-old children which MPS deems equivalent to five-year-old kindergarten;
  3. the child does not meet either condition described above, but as determined by an evaluation by MPS, demonstrates the social, emotional, physical, and mental maturity normally expected for successful participation in first grade.
- (b) There is no minimum age below which a child will not be considered for early admission to first grade. The procedure for considering a child for early admission to first grade shall be as follows:
1. A child who meets the standards and conditions in paragraphs (2)(a)1 and 2(b)2 shall be automatically granted early admission to first grade.
  2. A child who seeks early admission to first grade under paragraph (2)(s)(3) shall comply with the following procedures:
    - a. An application for early admission to first grade and a consent for psychological evaluation shall be completed by the parent/guardian at the child's local MPS attendance area school. The application shall contain a statement that:
      - i. the parent/guardian would like to have the child evaluated for early admission to first grade; and
      - ii. the parent/guardian understands that an evaluation shall be given to determine whether or not the child should enter first grade in the current school year; and
      - iii. the parent/guardian understands that the child shall be given the evaluation only once.
    - b. A personal interview shall be held to determine the parent's /guardian's reasons for requesting early admission.
    - c. The child shall be evaluated, at no cost to the parent/guardian, by a team of individuals employed by MPS, including an MPS certified school psychologist, who shall determine whether the child demonstrates the social, emotional, physical and mental maturity to enroll in first grade.
    - d. After the completion of the evaluation, a conference shall be held with the parents to consider the appropriateness of early entrance into first grade.
    - e. If the determination is made not to recommend the child for early admission to the grade for which the parent applied, the parent shall be informed of the procedures for appealing the matter to the Board. The Board's decision shall be final.

**History:** Adopted 4-18-79; revised 3-29-95, 6-23-05, 8-31-06

**Previous Coding:** Admin. Policy JEBA, prior to May 1995; Admin. Policy 10.09, May 1995-August 1996

**Legal Ref.:** §120.12(25), Stats.; §118.14(1), Stats.

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