Adopted: 5/27/2025

MSBA/MASA Model Policy 617
Orig. 1998
Rev. 2023

617 EARLY ADMISSION

I. PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to provide information and guidance to families and professional staff for a student who has not met the age requirements established in statute.

II. GENERAL STATEMENT OF POLICY

Pursuant to Minnesota Statute 2012, Section 124D.02, subdivision 1, South St. Paul Public School provides early admission for a student.

A. The policy is to fully comply with Minnesota Statute 124.D.02 requiring the school district to have a board-approved policy for early admission to kindergarten for students.

B. Enrollment eligibility for Kindergarten and Early Admission Kindergarten:

1. Kindergarten enrollment eligibility: children must be a minimum of five (5) years of age by September 1 of the current school year.

2. Early Admission Kindergarten enrollment eligibility: children currently four (4) in the current school year, turning five (5) between September 2 through October 31, the parent/ guardian may request consideration for fall enrollment into kindergarten through the early admission process.

C. A child's parent/ guardian must submit an early admission application, found on the district website, to the district. A child's early childhood screening must be completed before an Early Admission to Kindergarten can be submitted.

D. The district will approve procedures that establish a comprehensive evaluation for early admission to kindergarten. These procedures will include how the district will:

1. Determine the child's academic, social, and emotional readiness for kindergarten.

2. Determine the child's ability to meet kindergarten grade expectations.

E. Testing and observation of the child will be used to determine placement. The comprehensive evaluation will use valid and reliable instruction aligned with Minnesota's kindergarten expectations.

F. Costs associated with individual student testing will be the responsibility of the student's parent/ guardian. Fee waivers are available for families that qualify for educational benefits.

G. Final decision for determining early admission will be made by the district screening team after the evaluation is concluded.

H. Enrollment eligibility for first grade:

1. Grade one enrollment eligibility: children, in general, must be six (6) years of age by September 1 of the current school year.

2. Early Admission to grade one enrollment eligibility: children currently five (5) in the current school year, turning six (6) between September 2 through October 31, where a student has not successfully completed a kindergarten program must go through a grade acceleration process for early admission to grade one.

III. Probationary Period

All early admission placements are subject to available space in the classrooms and will be considered probationary for a period outlined in the guidelines.

IV. Compulsory School Attendance

All students shall be governed by Minnesota Statute 120A.22, Compulsory Instruction which states that children between the ages of 7 and 17 years of age must receive instruction unless the child has graduated. In addition, every child under the age of seven who is enrolled in a kindergarten program shall receive instruction.

V. Appeals Process

The decision of the district screening team is final and cannot be appealed.

Legal References: Minn. Stat. § 124D.02 (Kindergarten Enrollment)
Minn. Stat. § 120B.15 (Gifted and Talented)
Minn. Stat. § 120A.20 (Admission to Public School)
Minn. Stat. § 120A.22 (Compulsory Instruction)

Cross References: resident and nonresident student enrollment?