

SECTION 501 ENTRANCE AGE / EARLY ADMISSION

The Board of Education shall establish student entrance age requirements which are consistent with Wisconsin Law and sound educational practice and which ensure equitable treatment.

A. Kindergarten: Pursuant to the authority vested in the State Superintendent of Public Instruction by Section 115.28(8) Wisconsin Statutes, the following conditions and standards are prescribed:

1. A child is eligible for entrance into 4-year old kindergarten if s/he attains the age of four (4) on or before September 1st. There is no early admission to 4-year old kindergarten.
2. A child is eligible for 5-year old kindergarten when s/he attains the age of five (5) on or before September 1st of the year in which s/he registers for entrance and meets residence requirements or has already completed a 4-K program.
 - a. A written letter shall be made by the parent(s)/ guardian(s) to the school district superintendent for early admission to 5-year old Kindergarten of any child who will be five (5) years old between September 1st and October 1st. The deadline is June 1.
 - b. The letter is shared with the school psychologist and elementary principal of the school the child would attend.
 - c. Within 10 business days the elementary principal shall hold a personal interview with the family to determine the parent(s)/ guardian(s) reasons for requesting entrance prior to the legal age. At this time a child would be considered if space and staff is available.
 - d. An evaluation of the child's potential to benefit from early admission to school shall be completed as soon as possible after the personal interview is completed. The evaluation shall consider emotional, social, cognitive, and readiness skills as well as physical health. The individual evaluation shall be conducted by the district's school psychologist. The evaluation shall be at no cost to the parent(s)/ guardian(s).
 - e. After the evaluation has been completed, a review shall be held with the parent(s)/ guardian(s) to consider the appropriateness of early entrance into 5-year old Kindergarten. The principal will send a recommendation to the Board of Education, including an anticipated start date for the student. Early admission will be granted only if staff and facilities are deemed sufficient.

f. **If early admission is granted**, the placement is reviewed within six weeks of the start of the school year to see if it is appropriate for the child. The child's parent(s)/ guardian(s), classroom teacher(s), school psychologist and building principal are involved in the review process. If placement is found to be inappropriate at that time, continuation of the placement may be modified, overruled or denied.

g. **If early admission is denied** following the evaluation and the parent(s)/ guardian(s) choose to pursue placement, then the parent(s)/ guardian(s) need to contact the superintendent no later than July 1. If parent(s)/ guardian(s) disagree with the superintendent's decision, it may be appealed to the school board no later than the regular August board meeting. The school board has the final authority for the early admission decision. If the student is denied early admission, acceleration of the child could occur in future years.

3. Wisconsin Law states that completion of 5-year old Kindergarten is mandatory.

4. Any student who has moved to the District from another state or country that does not require the completion of a 5-year old kindergarten prior to enrollment in first grade will be assessed to determine appropriate placement. After the assessments are completed, a meeting will be held with the parent(s)/ guardian(s) to discuss the placement of the child.

B. Older Students

1. The Wisconsin Constitution guarantees a free education for children ages 4 through 20 who have not graduated from high school. The requirement of the local school district to provide free public elementary and secondary education to resident children is stated in Wis. Stat. sec. 121.77(1), as follows: "Every elementary school and high school shall be free to all pupils who reside in the district." For school attendance purposes, a child is a resident of the district where he or she lives, regardless of where his or her parent lives, unless he is there "for the sole purpose of having the privileges of the public school of the district to which he may be transferred."

Approved - April 9, 1984

Amended - December 13, 1993

Amended - April 16, 2012

Revised - March 10, 2014 (Combined 501 & 503)