

ENTRANCE AGE

In order to be admitted to first grade in the district, a child must be at least six years of age by September 1 of the year he/she proposes to enter first grade and have successfully completed 5-year-old kindergarten. Admission to first grade under the age of six may be permitted if:

1. the child has successfully completed a 5-year-old kindergarten program or its equivalent, or
2. the child demonstrates the academic and developmental readiness skills expected for successful participation in first grade. Evidence must exist that the child's educational welfare would best be served by placement in first grade.

A child who is six years of age on or before September 1 of the year he/she proposes to enter first grade, but has not completed 5-year-old kindergarten, may be admitted to first grade if the child meets any of the following requirements:

1. The child has successfully completed an educational program for five-year-old children in a private school or licensed day care center that the school district deems equivalent to public school 5-year-old kindergarten. Documentation of program completion shall be required.
2. The child demonstrates academic and developmental readiness skills expected for successful participation in first grade. Evidence must exist that the child's educational welfare would best be served by placement in first grade.
3. Before either commencing or completing first grade, the child moved into Wisconsin from a state, country or territory in which completion of 5-year-old kindergarten is not a prerequisite to entering first grade.
4. Before either commencing or completing first grade, the child moved into Wisconsin from a state, country or territory in which completion of 5-year-old kindergarten is a prerequisite to entering first grade and the child was exempted from the requirement to complete 5-year-old kindergarten in the state, country or territory from which the child moved.

The decision to grant admission to first grade before the legal entrance age and/or without completion of 5-year-old kindergarten shall be made by an educational team including the school psychologist, elementary building principal, and the director of special education and pupil services. The following process will be used:

1. An application form for early entry to first grade is available at the elementary school. A parent or guardian must submit the application to the director of special education and pupil services by March 1. Families moving into the district after that date may submit an application no later than August 1st.

2. After the application has been received the family will be invited for an interview with the school psychologist, the director of special education and pupil services, and the elementary building principal. Based upon the outcome of the interview an evaluation, which may include informal assessments, screeners and observations, will be conducted in order to determine the child's potential for success in, and ability to cope with, the school environment. The educational team may consult with other school staff, as appropriate, when making this decision. The school psychologist will be looking for indicators to help determine the child's potential benefit from early admittance.
3. The team will reconvene with the parents to share results of the evaluation and to make a placement recommendation.
4. Appeal Procedure: If the evaluation team does not recommend early admission the family may appeal to the district administrator no later than May 15. The district administrator will provide a written response within 10 school days. If the district administrator upholds the team recommendation to deny early admittance, the family may appeal to the school board no later than the regular July board meeting. The school board has final authority for the admission decision.

A child who is compulsory attendance age (six years old), who has not completed five-year-old kindergarten, and who has not been granted an exemption to the mandatory kindergarten completion requirement shall be placed in 5-year-old kindergarten in the district or be expected to meet compulsory attendance requirements through other means authorized by state law.

Legal Reference: Wisconsin Statutes 118.14

Cross Reference: 421, Admission to Kindergarten and First Grade;

421-Rule, Early Admission to Kindergarten or First Grade

Adopted: March 2011

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