

JEB ©
ENTRANCE AGE REQUIREMENTS

Admission to Special Needs Preschools

A child who has reached the third (3rd) birthday, and who has been evaluated and recommended for special services for a disability in accord with statute, may be admitted to preschool. If otherwise eligible, the District may admit a child who is within ninety (90) days of reaching age three (3) years if it is determined to be in the best interest of the individual. The Superintendent shall develop procedures to determine if such an admission is in the best interests of a child. The Superintendent shall make such determination based upon one (1) or more consultations with parent(s), guardian(s), the child, and the multidisciplinary placement team.

Admission to Kindergarten

The District shall provide an academically meaningful half-day kindergarten program in each District school where the half-day student enrollment is sufficient to fill a class with approximately the same number of students as the District-wide kindergarten classroom average. The half-day kindergarten program may be augmented to a full-day through the permissible use of available federal funding or tuition. If a full-day kindergarten is provided at the school of enrollment, the parent of a student eligible for full-day kindergarten shall be offered the opportunity to choose either a half-day or a full-day kindergarten program.

Children who will be five (5) years of age prior to September 1 of the current school year will be admitted to kindergarten.

The District may admit children who have not reached the required age by September 1, if it is determined it to be in the best interest of the children and such children will reach the age of five (5) by January 1 of the current school year. The Superintendent shall develop procedures to determine if such an admission is in the best interests of a child. Such procedures shall include at least one (1) or more consultations with the parent(s) or guardian(s), the child, the kindergarten teacher, the school principal, and/or the child's preschool representative (if applicable). The final decision for early entrance to kindergarten will be made by the principal of the school.

If a child who has not reached age five (5) prior to September 1 is admitted for early enrollment in kindergarten pursuant to this policy, and the child is subsequently retained in kindergarten for the following year, the District will not be eligible to receive basic state aid for the child's second year of kindergarten, or will only be eligible to receive a portion of basic state aid if the child did not remain enrolled for the entirety of the first year in kindergarten. Consequently, in accordance with A.R.S. 15-821, the District may charge tuition for the second year of kindergarten enrollment in such a circumstance.

Admission to First Grade

Children who will be six (6) years of age prior to September 1 of the current school year will be admitted to First Grade. The District may admit children who have not reached the required age

by January 1, if it is determined to be in the best interest of the children, and such children will reach the age of six (6) by January 1 of the current school year. The Superintendent shall develop procedures to determine if such an admission is in the best interests of the child. Such procedures shall include at least one (1) or more consultations with the parent(s) or guardian(s), the child, the teacher, the school principal, and/or the child's preschool representative (if applicable). The final decision for early entrance to first grade will be made by the principal of the school.

Admission to High School

A high school graduate with a recognized diploma may be refused admission.

Students between the ages of sixteen (16) and twenty-one (21) years shall be admitted to high school. A student under sixteen (16) years of age who does not hold an eighth-grade certificate of promotion may be admitted to high school if the student meets competency requirements in the adopted standards for promotion of students from the eighth (8th) grade as determined by the State Board of Education in the areas of reading, writing, mathematics, science, and social studies. The Superintendent will develop procedures for the student to demonstrate competency in this regard.

Residency Verification

In accordance with guidelines and forms adopted by the Arizona Department of Education, the District shall require and maintain verifiable documentation of residency in the State of Arizona for students who enroll in the District.

Adopted: May 3, 2016

LEGAL REF.: A.R.S. 15-701
15-701.01
15-703
15-766
15-767
15-771
15-821
15-901
15-901.02

Section 78, Arizona Laws 2009, HB 2011
A.A.C. R7-2-301

CROSS REF.: JF - Student Admissions
JHD - Exclusions and Exemptions from School Attendance
JLC - Student Health Services and Requirements

REGULATION

EB-R ENTRANCE AGE REQUIREMENTS

Kindergarten and First Grade Requirements and Exceptions

In accord with state statutes, District policy specifies the eligible ages for entry into kindergarten (age five [5]) and entry into first grade (age six [6]). The School District is authorized by state statutes to admit children who have not reached the eligible ages by September 1 of the current school year if it is determined to be in the best interest of the children. For this purpose, only the following exceptions will be made:

- A child who has successfully completed the District's prescribed kindergarten program shall be eligible for first grade.
- A child moving into the District after the opening date of the current school year, and who has attended school elsewhere but has not yet reached the age as prescribed, will be permitted to enroll in that grade level if the child has been enrolled during the current school year for ninety (90) days or more in a previous school under a state-licensed program and taught by a teacher certificated by the department of education of the state of residence. (*Note: A child in first grade may be able to qualify for early entry to first grade as stipulated below.*)
- A child moving into this School District who has satisfactorily completed the kindergarten program elsewhere, but who has not reached the age for entry into first grade as prescribed will be admitted provided the kindergarten program was licensed by the state of residence and taught by a teacher certificated in that state by its department of education.
- A child who will reach six (6) years of age between September 1 and December 31 of the current calendar year may be admitted to first grade without attending kindergarten, provided the following procedure is completed and it is then determined to be in the best interest of the child:
 - Prior to admission, application for early admission must be made no later than four (4) weeks before the end of the preceding school year or four (4) weeks after the beginning of the current school year. The parent(s) or guardian(s) shall submit to the principal of the school in their attendance area a written request for early admission of their child into first grade. (This requirement may be waived under certain conditions - see above.)
 - The principal shall meet with the parent(s) or guardian(s) and the child to assess their reasons for the request and to verify the child's age. The parent(s) or guardian(s) shall present the child's birth certificate at that time.

- The principal will make a written record of the reasons stated, will make a copy of the birth certificate, and will request that parent(s) obtain a written assessment from the child's kindergarten teacher if the child attended a public or private school kindergarten program.
- The principal will arrange for an observation period in which the child will spend at least one (1) week in a kindergarten class (in the spring) or a first grade class (in the fall) for the purpose of allowing the teacher to observe maturity and socialization skills. The teacher will document the child's actions in the classroom.
- During or immediately after observation period, the principal designee will administer the kindergarten exit assessment and a readiness test to child.
- All data collected will be reviewed by the principal, test administrator, and a kindergarten or first grade teacher from that school, who will make a recommendation regarding placement.
- If the parent or guardian disagrees with the decision regarding placement, an appeal may be made to a District review board consisting of the Superintendent or the Superintendent's designee and two (2) elementary principals appointed by the Superintendent. This board will meet with the parent or guardian, the child, and the principal to review the data submitted and to make final recommendations.

Determining Competency for Entrance to High School

Upon request for admission to high school, a student who has not obtained an eighth-grade certificate of promotion and is under sixteen (16) years of age must show competency in the standards of reading, writing, mathematics, science, and social studies as adopted by the State Board of Education and as determined by a District assessment instrument. The assessment instrument will be based upon the standards adopted by the State Board of Education. The instrument will be prepared or selected by, and the result will be verified by, a certificated person chosen by the Superintendent.