

Adopted: February 10, 1997

Revised: May 5, 2014

556 EARLY ADMISSIONS

I. PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to communicate student admission guidelines and policies of ISD #726 Becker Public Schools.

II. GENERAL STATEMENT OF POLICY

In accordance with Minnesota Statute 124D.02, no child shall be admitted as a kindergarten student unless he/she is at least five years of age on September 1 of the calendar year in which the school year for which he/she seeks admission commences.

The statute provides that exceptions may be approved by the Board of Education as criteria for early admittance. Accordingly, the following procedures are established:

- A. Children will only be considered whose 5th birthday falls after September 1st and on or before October 31st of the year in which admission is requested.
- B. Children must score, 130 or higher on an individually administered, comprehensive cognitive ability test. Consideration may be given to children who score 125 or higher, if they also demonstrate exceptional academic skills, and social and emotional development.
- C. Children must demonstrate high academic skills, and social and emotional development, as determined by Becker Public Schools.

Early Admittance will be completed accordance with the following procedures:

- A. Parents that feel it is in the best interest of their child to gain early admissions into kindergarten shall complete an application and submit to the principal at Becker Primary School. The application deadline is April 15th for Early Admission for the following school year.
- B. If the Principal of Becker Primary School determines that the circumstances are worthy of consideration, he/she will recommend that (1) the child be referred for further evaluation; or (2) the application for early entrance does not warrant further consideration.
- C. If the recommendation is for further evaluation, the school shall designate a licensed school psychologist to administer an individually administered, comprehensive cognitive ability test. The parents shall pay expense of the testing.
- D. If the child meets the required cognitive ability score, the school district will designate a teacher to meet with the child and assess the child's academic skills, and observe the child's social and emotional development.

- E. A conference will be held with the principal, parents, child applicant, and/or other appropriate staff such as teachers, school psychologist and social worker.
- F. Based on the results of the cognitive ability testing, academic testing, and social and emotional screening, the Becker Primary School principal will make a recommendation for or against early admission to the Superintendent.
- G. All early entrants will be considered as trial placements and as such will be continually evaluated to determine if the child has been appropriately placed.

III. OTHER GRADES AND TRANSFERS

Admissions of students to all other grades shall be contingent upon completion of all previous grades. Exception to this rule may apply in the case of a child who is six years of age on or before September 1, but the child has not completed kindergarten. If a child has not completed Kindergarten and parents are requesting early admission to first grade, the procedures outlined in this policy will apply.

Children transferring from another school shall be placed in the grade indicated by their chronological age and/or grade placement in the previous school, pending observation by the school personnel. After these observations have been completed the elementary principal will determine final grade placement.