

Adopted: 5/11/2017
Reviewed: 4/27/2017
Revised:
Rescinds:

546 EARLY ADMISSION TO KINDERGARTEN

I. PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to provide guidance to professional staff, parents, and students regarding early admission to kindergarten. Minnesota state law provides for children to begin kindergarten if they reach the age of five on or before September 1 of the school year. This policy is in compliance with Minn. Stat. §§ 124D.02 and 120B.15.

II. GENERAL STATEMENT OF POLICY

The school board recognizes that every Minnesota child is entitled to an appropriate and challenging education. Minn. Stat. § 124D.02 subdivision 1 permits early admission to kindergarten if a board-adopted early admissions policy describes the process and procedures for comprehensive evaluation in cognitive, social, and emotional developmental domains to help the child's ability to meet kindergarten grade expectations and progress to first grade the subsequent year. The comprehensive evaluation must be a valid and reliable instrument, be aligned with the state kindergarten expectations, and include a parent report and teacher observations of the child's knowledge, skills, and abilities.

III. DEFINITION

Early Admission to Kindergarten: Early entrance is the practice of admitting a student to kindergarten who has not yet reached 5 years old by September 1. The purpose is to provide access to appropriately challenging learning opportunities.

IV. EARLY ADMISSION PROCESS

- A. Early entrance to kindergarten should be based upon the premise that each student shall be challenged and supported in the most appropriate placement for learning.

To be eligible for kindergarten, a child must be five (5) years old on or before midnight of September 1st of the current school year. There is an exception to this regulation for children born during the month of September and in extremely rare cases, October. The school has a special testing and interview program to determine exceptions to this regulation. Review and/or revision of the testing program will occur at the discretion of district administration. Parents who are interested are advised to contact the principal in their attendance area. Parents requesting special testing will be assessed fees for this service.

- B. Students who enroll for 1st grade in Independent School District 191, after completing kindergarten outside of Independent School District 191, prior to their legal eligibility, may be subject to the Independent School District 191 early entrance procedure and qualifying criteria to determine placement.
- C. The process, timeline and application form is available at www.isd191.org or contact the ISD 191 enrollment office.

V. DECISIONS FINAL

A parent or legal guardian of the referred child may appeal in writing the decision of District team to the Superintendent within fifteen (15) days after being notified of the committee's decision. The Superintendent shall review the appeal and notify the parent or legal guardian who filed the appeal of the final decision within fifteen (15) days of receiving the appeal. The Superintendent's decision shall be final.

Legal References: Minn. Stat. § 124D.02 School Board Powers; Enrollment
Minn. Stat. § 120B.15 Gifted and Talented Students Programs

Cross References: Form 546