

## **JEB ENTRANCE AGE REQUIREMENTS**

### **Admission to Special Needs Preschool**

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.

If the school district or charter school offers more than two and one-half (2 ½) hours of voluntary tuition-free kindergarten instruction during a school day to student who are under six (6) years of age, the instruction shall meet all of the following requirements:

- A. Meet or exceed the academic standards for kindergarten instruction prescribed by the State Board of Education and incorporate play as an instructional strategy.
- B. Be academically meaningful.
- C. Provide active learning enrichment.

A parent of a kindergarten student may choose either half (1/2)-day kindergarten instruction or full-day kindergarten instruction pursuant to A.R.S. 15-703.

The District may admit children who have not reached the required age by September 1, if it is determined to be in the best interests of the children and such children will reach

the age of five (5) years of age 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.

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: December 11, 2018

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

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