

# INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT #877 POLICY

## Buffalo-Hanover-Montrose

INDEX TITLE Instruction SERIES NO. 600

POLICY TITLE Early Entrance CODE NO. 630

### I. PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to establish a procedure to consider a student for early entrance to kindergarten as an exception to the age entrance requirements as set forth in Minn. Stat. § 120A.20, Subd. 1(b) (Admission to Public School).

### II. GENERAL STATEMENT OF POLICY

- A. The school district recognizes that under certain circumstances, exceptions to the age entrance requirements for kindergarten may be appropriate to make, depending on the individual student.
- B. According to Minn. Stat. § 120A.20, Subd. 1(b) (Admission to Public School), a person shall not be admitted to a public school (1) as a kindergarten pupil, unless the pupil is at least five years of age on September 1 of the calendar year in which the school year for which the pupil seeks admission commences; or (2) as a 1<sup>st</sup> grade student, unless the pupil is at least six years of age on September 1 of the calendar year in which the school year for which the pupil seeks admission commences or has completed kindergarten; except that any school board may establish a policy for admission of selected pupils at an earlier age.

### III. EARLY ENTRANCE ADMISSION ASSESSMENT

- A. All requests for early entrance as an exception to Minn. Stat. § 120A.20, Subd. 1(b) (Admission to Public School) will follow the guidelines established within this policy.
- B. Parents must apply in writing by February 1 ~~after a visit to kindergarten.~~ Exceptions will be made for parents who move into the district after February 1 and prior to the start of school.
- C. Each child, along with the parents/guardians will meet with the principal and ~~kindergarten teacher of the school~~ **the early entrance screener of the school** serving their attendance area for a formal interview. At this time, the application and child's general readiness will be discussed.

- D. The school district will consider only those kindergarten candidates who will have their fifth birthday prior to October 31.
- E. Following the interview, a ~~certified kindergarten teacher~~ **the early entrance screener** will screen the child using an appropriate early childhood developmental screening tool (i.e. Gesell, ~~Batelle, etc.~~). The child would be expected to obtain a score of 5-5 ½ to be considered beyond this step.
- F. If the child has successfully completed all of the steps and screening indicates that the child is a good candidate for early entrance to kindergarten, ~~an individual intellectual assessment will be administered by the school psychologist. The assessment will be completed prior to the end of the school year.~~ **the parent will schedule an evaluation for the child with a licensed psychologist of their choice at no cost to the school district.** The child is expected to obtain an IQ score equal to or above one standard deviation above average. Other assessments may be recommended if needed to make an informed decision.
- ~~The intellectual assessment will be completed with the school psychologist. An intellectual assessment conducted by an outside agency will be considered by the team but may not fulfill the criteria.~~ **The parent-selected psychologist will provide a written report of findings and recommendations to the Director of Special Services.**
- H. The principal, will communicate with the parents/guardians to report results and suggest options.
- I. In situations where students have demonstrated exceptional performance in the screening process, the principal will communicate that information to the gifted education ~~specialist assigned to that school~~ **coordinator.**
- J. Any appeal of the decision shall be filed with the Director of Teaching & Learning. The appeal committee shall consist of the Director of Teaching & Learning, one elementary principal, two teachers selected by the Director of Teaching & Learning, and one school board member. The appeal shall be heard within ten working days of notification. A majority decision of the committee shall be rendered within three days and is final.

*Legal References:* Minn. Stat. § 120A.20, Subd. 1(b) (Admission to Public School)

**Administrative Offices  
Buffalo, Minnesota 55313**

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