

**PROCEDURES FOR EARLY ADMISSION TO
KINDERGARTEN AND FIRST GRADE OR ADMISSION TO FIRST
GRADE WITHOUT HAVING ATTENDED KINDERGARTEN**

Any parent and/or guardian of a child who resides in the District may apply for early admission of their child to kindergarten or first grade (if the child did not attend kindergarten in the Verona Area School District) and such child may be admitted if District procedures, conditions and standards are met. A formal written application for early admission shall be made to the elementary principal for the attendance area school of residence prior to April 1. If the child moves into the District after April 1, the application shall be on file at least three weeks prior to the beginning of the school year. Early admission applications from nonresident open enrollment students shall be submitted and acted upon in accordance with the timelines outlined in the District's procedures for dealing with full-time open enrollment students and the procedures and criteria outlined below.

The criteria for early admission will be based on space availability and the ability of the child to demonstrate a potential for success and an ability to cope intellectually, socially, physically and emotionally within the school environment.

The elementary building principal shall coordinate all necessary procedures and shall process applications on a first come, first serve basis. Kindergarten admission will be denied if enrollment is within two students of the total grade level capacity to achieve the building grade level target class size.

- Procedure for children born after September 1 and before October 1

Children with September birthdates will be admitted based on the positive results of an individual screening if the above criteria are also met.

- Procedure for children born on or after October 1 through December 31

Children with birthdates on or after October 1 must exhibit gifted characteristics and be socially and emotionally comparable to an advanced child in order to be accepted for early admission. Criteria that would support this include:

- Reads at the pre-primer level (kindergarten), end of first grade level (1st grade)
- Carries on a confident conversation with an unfamiliar adult such as the teacher or principal
- Separates easily from parents
- Interacts appropriately with age peers
- Works independently for at least a half hour at a time

Parents/guardians interested in early admission for children with birthdates between October 1 and December 31 should provide support for the above criteria, along with the written early admission application. Upon receipt of this information, the building principal and/or psychologist will conduct a follow-up conference with the parent/guardian and child. If early admission is still a consideration, the child must receive teacher recommendation.

- Children born after December 31 will not be considered for early admission.

All children granted early admission are admitted on a six week trial basis. Either the child's parent(s)/guardian or the school may decide to withdraw the child during or at the conclusion of the trial period if the child has not made a satisfactory transition.

A child who has not completed 5-year-old kindergarten may be admitted to first grade if he/she meets any of the following requirements:

1. The child successfully completed a program for 5-year-old children that the school district deems equivalent to kindergarten. Documentation of a program completion shall be required.
2. The child demonstrates satisfaction that he/she possesses the social, emotional and cognitive skills necessary for placement in first grade. Determination will be made by the elementary school principal, a school psychologist and a teacher assigned to teach first grade and or other staff as appropriate. Multiple sources of evaluation data shall be used when making this decision.
3. Before either commencing or completing first grade, the child moved into Wisconsin from a state, country or territory in which completion of 5-year-old kindergarten is not a prerequisite to entering first grade.
4. Before either commencing or completing first grade, the child moved into Wisconsin from a state, country or territory in which completion of 5-year-old kindergarten is a prerequisite to entering first grade and the child was exempted from the requirement to complete 5-year-old kindergarten in the state, country or territory from which the child moved

If a request for first grade admission is denied under this policy, the child's parent or guardian may appeal the decision to the District Administrator. The decision of the District Administrator shall be final.

APPROVED: April 19, 1982

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