

## Standards for Early Admission to Kindergarten

The 1997 General Assembly passed legislation allowing a child who has reached his/her fourth birthday by April 16 to enter kindergarten if he or she demonstrates an extraordinary level of academic ability and maturity and is presented no later than the end of the first month of school. In determining eligibility, the principal shall convene a committee of educational professionals who will assist him/her in making decisions about each individual child. Criteria that shall be considered include the following:

- Aptitude
- Achievement
- Performance
- Observable Student Behavior
- Motivation to Learn
- Student Interest

### **Student Aptitude Indicator: 98<sup>th</sup> percentile**

A child eligible to enter school early shall be precocious in academic and social development and score at the **98<sup>th</sup>** percentile on a standard individual test of intelligence such as the **Stanford-Binet-Fifth Edition, the Wechsler Preschool and Primary Scale of Intelligence-Fourth Edition, the Kaufman Anderson**, or any other comparable test administered by an outside licensed psychologist.

### **Achievement Indicator: 98<sup>th</sup> percentile**

Children entering kindergarten early shall be functioning two to three years beyond their peers. Children eligible for early admission to kindergarten shall score at the **98<sup>th</sup>** percentile on either Reading or Mathematics on a standard test of achievement such as the **Metropolitan Readiness Test, the Stanford Early School Achievement Test, the Mini Battery of Achievement, or the Woodcock-Johnson**, administered by a licensed psychologist or a member of his/her professional staff who is trained in the use of the instrument as long as he/she has no potential conflict of interest in the outcome of the assessment.

### **Performance Indicator: Student samples of work**

The child shall be able to perform tasks well above their age peers. Some indicators the principal may observe are the child's ability in independent reading, problem solving skills, advanced vocabulary, and some writing fluency. The parents shall submit a sample of student work showing outstanding examples of ability in any of the following areas: art, math, writing, dramatic play, creative productions, science, social interactions, etc. For further indication of performance, the principal may instruct a teacher to complete an informal reading assessment.

## Observable Student Behavior/Student Interest

**Indicator:**     **2 letters of recommendation**  
                      **Social development checklist**

The child shall demonstrate social and developmental maturity sufficient to be in a structured school setting for a full school day. The child should be capable of following verbal instructions and functioning independently within a group. The school system shall require two recommendation letters with specific documentation of physical and social maturity from preschool teachers, child care workers, pediatricians, or other adults with direct knowledge of the child. Documentation checklists that might be useful are the **California Preschool Competency Scale**, the **Harrison Scale**, or any other comparable scale of early social development.

## Motivation/Student Interest

**Indicator:**     **Informal interview with the child**  
                      **Structured parent interview**

Principals or his/her designee shall determine this information in an informal interview with the child and in a more structured interview with the parent to determine if the child displays a thirst for knowledge and seeks new and challenging learning situations.

## Time Lines

<b>Within the first 30 calendar days of the school's instructional year</b>	<b>Parent submits all required documentation to the principal</b>
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**Within in three weeks of receiving the information that Principal shall make a determination**

<b>Within first 90 days of enrollment</b>	<b>Principal has right to rescind placement</b>
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<b>10 days notice to parent</b>	<b>Notification to parent if placement has been rescinded</b>
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A parent wishing to submit his/her child for consideration for early admission to kindergarten shall present to the principal of his/her local school the required information within the first **thirty (30) calendar days of the school year**. All testing must be administered after the April 16<sup>th</sup> that follows the child's fourth birthday. If the child is admitted to kindergarten, before the end of the first ninety (90) calendar days of the child's being enrolled, the principal may rescind his/her approval based on substantial evidence documenting that the child is not adjusting satisfactorily to the school setting. If the decision is made to remove the child from school, parents must be given at least ten (10) days notice to arrange child care if needed.

**Note: Early admission to kindergarten does not guarantee placement in the Academically and Intellectually Gifted ("AIG") Program.**