

ADMISSION TO KINDERGARTEN AND FIRST GRADE

The District shall enroll into kindergarten only those children who have become five years of age on or before September 1 in the year they apply to enter school. A child is eligible to enter first grade if they are six years old on or before September 1 in the year they apply to enter school. The District will admit students to the five year old kindergarten or first grade below the legal age in accordance with state law and established Board guidelines (see 421-Rule(1)). No early admission shall be granted for four-year old kindergarten.

Admission to first grade under the age of six may be permitted if: (1) the child has successfully completed a 5-year-old kindergarten program or its equivalent, or (2) the child demonstrates the academic and developmental readiness skills expected for successful participation in first grade. Evidence must exist that the child's educational welfare would best be served by placement in first grade.

A child who is six years of age on or before September 1 of the year they apply to enter first grade, but has not completed 5-year-old kindergarten, may be admitted to first grade if the child meets any of the following requirements:

1. The child has successfully completed an educational program for five-year-old children in a private school or licensed day care center that the District deems equivalent to public school 5-year-old kindergarten. Documentation of program completion is required.
2. The child demonstrates academic and developmental readiness skills expected for successful participation in first grade. Evidence must exist that the child's educational welfare would best be served by placement in first grade.
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 was 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 was 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.

The decision to grant admission to first grade before the legal entrance age and/or without completion of 5-year-old kindergarten shall be made by the principal. The principal may consult with other school staff as appropriate when making this decision.

If first grade admission is denied under this policy, the child's parent or guardian may appeal the principal's decision to the district administrator. The district administrator shall meet with the child's parent or guardian to discuss the first grade admission request, review relevant student data and then make a decision regarding the child's first grade admission. The district administrator's decision regarding the request shall be final.

A child who is of compulsory attendance age (six years old), who has not completed five-year-old kindergarten, and who has not been granted an exemption to the mandatory kindergarten completion requirement shall be placed in 5-year-old kindergarten in the District or be expected to meet compulsory attendance requirements through other means authorized by state law.

Legal Ref.: 118.13 - Wisconsin Statutes
 118.33 (1)(cm) - Wisconsin Statutes
 118.5 (1) - Wisconsin Statutes

188.14(1) – Wisconsin Statutes
120.12(25) – Wisconsin Statutes

Cross Ref.: 421 – Rule, Early Admission Procedures to Kindergarten & First Grade
411.1 - Rule, Student Harassment and Discrimination Complaint Procedures
421 – Rule (1) - Early Admission to Kindergarten and First Grade
421-Rule (2) - Procedures for Admission to First Grade Without Kindergarten
Completion
453.2 - Student Immunizations
453.5 - Student Physical Examinations
Special Education Handbook

APPROVED: September 19, 2011
January 18, 2016
AUGUST 16, 2021