

EARLY ADMISSION TO KINDERGARTEN AND FIRST GRADE

Wisconsin Statutes state that a child must be five years of age on or before September 1st of the year s/he proposes to enter school to be eligible to enroll in kindergarten classes. The School District of New Berlin views this age requirement as developmentally appropriate for a majority of children to function successfully in the kindergarten program.

Occasionally, exceptions to this policy are made for children whose potential and skills are in the superior range. The School District of New Berlin has specific procedures and criteria for considering parent requests for early entrance.

In compliance with Wisconsin Statutes sections 118.14 and 120.12(25), any parent and/or legal guardian who is a resident of the school district may apply for early admission to kindergarten or first grade for their child. The child must meet district criteria for early admission to either kindergarten or first grade. The goal of the early admission evaluation is to establish intellectual, academic readiness, and social emotional ability and to reliably predict the child's ability to achieve with other children appreciably over the child's entire school career.

The following steps are to be completed for your child who will reach five or six years of age after September 1st of the school year when you wish him/her to enter kindergarten or first grade.

Early Admission Procedure for Kindergarten

- A. Parent(s)/legal guardian(s) shall make sure that a kindergarten screening is completed by March 31st. Kindergarten screenings are held on a monthly basis and can be scheduled at any time by contacting the district office.
- B. Criteria to move forward with Early Entrance Referral- The child receives a composite score that falls at or above the 95th percentile, with no subtests falling below a percentile rank of 90, on the District Kindergarten screener (e.g., DIAL-4)
- C. If a student meets the kindergarten screener criteria, parent(s)/legal guardian(s) may submit an Application for Early Admission to Kindergarten by May 1 (found on the district webpage) and submit the written application to the principal of their home school.
- D. Upon receipt of the written application, the child must participate in an evaluation (as detailed below) conducted by a certified school psychologist. The school psychologist will contact the parent(s)/legal guardian(s) to schedule an evaluation date.
- E. A certified school psychologist will administer an age appropriate academic readiness test. On the academic readiness assessment the child must have an age-based standard score of 124 or higher, which is equivalent to the 95th percentile rank.
- F. If the child scores at or above a standard score of 124 on the academic readiness assessment (95th percentile) then the child will be evaluated by a school psychologist to determine intellectual abilities. On an intellectual assessment, the child must obtain an aged-based standard score of 124 or higher (Superior Range), which is equivalent to the 95th percentile rank.
- G. Based on testing observations and parent input, the evaluator will determine if the child demonstrates adequate attention, effort, persistence, motivation, social skills and attitudinal that would allow success in school.
- H. The school psychologist will document the results of the testing and observations in a written report.

- I. Based on the information gathered through formal assessments, observations, and parent input, the school psychologist will meet with the parent within 90 days of receiving the early entrance application to share results and discuss whether or not the child qualifies for grade level acceleration.

Appeal Procedure

- The decision of the team may be appealed within 30 days of the eligibility/determination meeting in writing through the formal complaint process (Policy 1312) to the Superintendent of Schools or designee.

Early Admission Procedure for First Grade

- A. If a family produces evidence of kindergarten completion outside of the School District of New Berlin the child will be admitted to first grade regardless of their age.
- B. If a child has not completed a kindergarten program the procedure for early admission to first grade is as follows:
 1. A certified school psychologist will administer an age appropriate academic readiness test. On the academic readiness assessment the child must have an age-based standard score of 124 or higher—resulting in functioning at the 95th percentile rank. If this criteria is not met, the evaluation process is concluded.
 2. A certified school psychologist will administer an age appropriate intelligence test. The child must obtain a Full Scale IQ of 124 or above (superior range); this would result in functioning at the 95th percentile.
 3. The school psychologist will document the results of testing and observations in a written report
 4. Based on the information gathered through formal assessments, observations, and parent input, the school psychologist will meet with the parent within 90 days of receiving the early entrance application to share results and discuss whether or not the child qualifies for grade level acceleration.

Appeal Procedure

- The decision of the team may be appealed within 30 days of the eligibility/determination meeting in writing through the formal complaint process (Policy 1312) to the Superintendent of Schools or designee.

Adopted: 5/9/1979
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