

## EARLY ADMISSION TO KINDERGARTEN AND FIRST GRADE

Wisconsin Statutes state that a child must be five years of age on or before September 1<sup>st</sup> of any year 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.

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.

### 1. Early Admission Procedures for Kindergarten and First Grade

- A. Parent(s)/legal guardian(s) shall complete the Application for Early Admission by August 1 (found on the district webpage) and submit the written application to the principal of the neighborhood school.
- B. Upon receipt of the written application, the child must participate in admission screening conducted by a certified school psychologist or other appointed certified staff.

### 2. Criteria for Early Admission

- A. The child receives a composite score of 95, with no subtests below 90, on the Kindergarten screener.
- B. The child will be evaluated by a school psychologist to determine child's intellectual, academic readiness, and social-emotional level of development using a variety of appropriate tools.
- C. Based on the information provided by evaluation tools, observations and parent input, a team consisting of at least three of the following individuals will convene a meeting to determine the readiness of the child for grade level acceleration:
  - i. Building Principal
  - ii. Current Teacher
  - iii. Receiving Teacher
  - iv. Talented and Gifted Teacher
  - v. School Psychologist
  - vi. District Administrator
- D. The team shall decide on the appropriateness of placement by consensus vote. The team will share the school-based recommendation with the child's parent(s) or legal guardian(s) by September 1.

### 3. Appeal Procedure

- A. The decision of the team may be appealed in writing through the formal complaint process (Policy #1312) to the Superintendent of Schools or designee. Decisions following reconsideration may further be appealed to the Board of Education. The decision of the Board of Education is final.

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9/28/15