



RIVER VALLEY SCHOOL DISTRICT

660 West Daley Street

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Spring Green, Wisconsin 53588

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Phone: 608-588-2551

421-Rule

Guidelines for Entrance Criteria for 5K/First Grade

Based upon past experience, the Board believes that it is in only the most extraordinary and exceptional case that early admission to school is appropriate or a benefit to the child admitted early or to allow a first grade student to begin school without attending kindergarten. The Board recognizes, however, that children do develop at different rates, making early admission into school appropriate for some children. Wisconsin State law also provides some automatic exemptions for admission to first grade without attending 5K.

Consequently, a parent/guardian may request early admission to 5K or first grade or to allow a first grade student to begin school without attending 5K by following the procedures and guidelines listed below.

1. Application for admission should be made in writing to the appropriate Elementary Principal no later than April 15. Applications filed after this date require District Administrator approval. The April 15 requirement may be waived for persons new to the district; however, no admissions shall be made after the third Friday in September. Application forms are available at the elementary school offices.
2. A personal interview will be held with the Principal to determine the reason(s) the parent/guardian is requesting enrollment of his/her child prior to legal age or without attendance in 5K and to review the School Board policy and guidelines covering the admission procedures.
3. Based on the outcome of the interview between the Principal and parent(s), an evaluation of the child's potential for success in, and ability to cope with, the school environment shall be initiated by the School Psychologist. The preliminary individual evaluation shall be conducted by a district School Psychologist. The child should generally demonstrate superior intellectual development (IQ score in the range of 130 or above), superior language, speech, and math skills. The School Psychologist and Principal will discuss the results of the initial assessment done by the Psychologist. If further assessment data is needed, the Principal may also ask the 5K teacher to administer a secondary screening of the child for 5K readiness skills, as well as advanced physical, social, and emotional maturity. This evaluation will be at no cost to the parent/guardian.

After the evaluation(s) has been completed, the Psychologist and 5K teacher will convene a conference with the parent/guardian and the appropriate Building Principal. At this conference, the psychologist and, when appropriate, the 5K teacher will share their assessment results and make a placement recommendation. Possible alternatives for students who are not recommended for admission will be given. A written communication of the conference, along with the recommendations, will be sent by the Building Principal to the parent/guardian within one week of the conference.

4. A child accepted for admission must meet all other conditions for enrollment in the school district (e.g., immunization requirements, residency requirements, etc.)
5. If admission is granted, the placement will be reviewed within six weeks of the placement to see if it is appropriate for the child. The child's parent(s)/guardian, classroom teacher and Building Principal will be involved in the review. If placement is found to be inappropriate at that time, the placement may be modified or denied.

6. Appeal Procedure: The decision of the evaluation team not to recommend admission may be appealed to the District Administrator no later than June 15. A decision of the evaluation team to terminate a conditional placement also may be appealed to the District Administrator. The disposition of the appeal by the District Administrator may be appealed to the School Board no later than the Regular July Board Meeting who has final authority for the admission decision.
7. State law provides the following two automatic exemptions for admission to first grade without having completed 5K:
 - Before either commencing or completing first grade, the child moved into Wisconsin from a state, country or territory in which completion of 5K is not a prerequisite to entering first grade.
 - Before either commencing or completing first grade, the child moved into Wisconsin from a state, country or territory in which completion of 5K is a prerequisite to entering first grade and the child was exempted from the requirement to complete 5K in the state, country or territory from which the child moved.

LEGAL REF: Section 118.33 (6)(cm)

CROSS REF.: Policy #421 - Entrance Criteria for 4K, 5K and First Grade

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