

## **421 - RULE GUIDELINES FOR EARLY ADMISSION TO KINDERGARTEN OR FIRST GRADE**

Requests for early admission to kindergarten or first grade shall be submitted and evaluated as follows:

1. Parent(s)/guardian(s) who wish early admission for their students in kindergarten or first grade must make written application to the Director of Pupil Services, stating the reasons for the request, prior to May 1.
2. An evaluation of the child's potential for long-term advanced performance shall be conducted, and shall:
  - a. Consider the child's emotional stability, and social and mental maturity.
  - b. Be conducted by a certified school district psychologist in conjunction with other Pupil Services Department staff.
  - c. Be conducted at no cost to the parent(s)/guardian(s).
3. After the evaluation has been completed, a conference shall be held with the parent(s)/guardian(s) to consider the appropriateness of early admission.
4. Admission or exemption from the Wisconsin mandatory kindergarten completion requirement will be based on the following conditions:
  - a. Kindergarten
    1. The child demonstrates the social, emotional, physical, and mental maturity normally expected for advanced performance in kindergarten and beyond.
  - b. First Grade
    1. The child was admitted to and successfully completed kindergarten under (a) above; or
    2. The child successfully completed a program for five-year-old children which the school district deems equivalent to kindergarten; or
    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 is not a prerequisite to entering first grade; or
    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 is 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.

5. The decision to grant early admission to kindergarten or first grade before the legal entrance age, and/or without completion of 5-year-old kindergarten, shall be made by the building principal.

If admission is denied under this policy, the child's parent(s)/guardian(s) may appeal to the Superintendent of Schools. The Superintendent shall meet with the child's parent(s)/guardian(s) to discuss the admission request, review relevant student data related to the request, and make a decision. The Superintendent's decision shall be final.

6. 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.
7. The Wisconsin Rapids Public Schools does not discriminate in the methods, practices and materials used for evaluating students on the basis of gender, race, religion, color, national origin, ancestry, creed, pregnancy, marital or parental, sexual orientation or physical, mental, emotional or learning disability or handicap in its educational programs or activities.

LEGAL REF: Section 118.33(6)(cm) Wis. Statutes  
Wisconsin Act 41, 2009

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