

**EARLY ADMISSION
TO FIVE YEAR OLD KINDERGARTEN AND 1ST GRADE PROCEDURES 900.13**

It is the position of this Board and the Administration of the Lake Country School that early admission to kindergarten or 1st grade is not a practice that is typical or encouraged, but rather an exception made in rare instances. We believe firmly in creating an environment that fosters the development of the whole child: academic, social, emotional, and behavioral. Within all classrooms, students' needs are individually addressed through a variety of differentiated strategies, reducing the need for a child to be removed from their age-appropriate peers. The following are the criteria laid out for Early Admission.

I. CRITERIA

Wisconsin Statutes [Section 118.14(1)(a)] uses September 1st as the date as to when the child must turn age 5 for regular admission to kindergarten and age 6 for regular admission to first grade. A different Wisconsin statute, Section 120.12(25), Wis. Stats., allows the Board to establish/adopt procedures for the early admission of pupils to Kindergarten and First Grade. Under that authority, the Board has established the following procedures:

A. Kindergarten:

1. The child turns five by October 31, in the year he/she proposes to enter school, as documented by a copy of the child's birth certificate.
2. Successful participation in a 4-year-old kindergarten program or its equivalent.
3. The child demonstrates the academic and developmental readiness skills expected for successful participation in kindergarten. Evidence must exist that the child's educational welfare would be best served by placement in kindergarten.

B. 1st Grade:

1. The child turns six by October 31, in the year he/she proposes to enter school, as documented by a copy of the child's birth certificate.
2. Successful participation in a 4-5- year-old kindergarten program or its equivalent unless 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.
3. The child demonstrates the academic and developmental readiness skills expected for successful participation in 1st grade. Evidence must exist that the child's educational welfare would be best served by placement in 1st grade.

II. Procedures For Early Admission [Procedures are the same for early admission requests to kindergarten or 1st grade]:

- A. Requests shall be submitted to the District Administrator in writing by March 1st for the upcoming school year. The request shall include the rationale for making the request and any academic or other information that supports the child's readiness for kindergarten/1st grade admission. A child moving into the district after that date may have a parent/guardian submit a request no later than three weeks prior to the start of the school year.

- B. A school team member will discuss with the parent/guardian the reasons for requesting the child's kindergarten/1st grade admission early and to review related student record information.
- C. The child will be assigned to a kindergarten screening. A behavioral observation will be made by district personnel to assess social, emotional, and physical maturity. On the standardized kindergarten screening assessment, the child must score in the 90th national percentile or higher on all subsections of the assessment. A conference will be held with the parents/guardian following the visitation. For children moving to the district during the summer, a screening will be conducted individually with the child.
- D. A request may be made by the school team to observe the child at their preschool (if applicable) or contact the previous four-year-old kindergarten teacher for additional information.
- E. If the child is recommended for further individual assessment based on his/her performance at the screening, an individual evaluation will be required. The evaluation is designed to assess the child's aptitude to learn (intelligence along with language maturity and complexity). The child will be expected to work alone with the examiner. The individual evaluation will be conducted by a certified school psychologist and speech/language clinician. All evaluations, requested by March 1st, will be completed by June 1st. The parents/guardian will be required to sign a permission form for testing. The testing will be at no cost to the parents/guardian.
- F. The school team will meet with the child's parent or guardian to present the results of the evaluation and the recommendation regarding admission to kindergarten. A written decision regarding the request will be provided to the parent or guardian and a copy kept on file in the district.
- G. If the request is approved, the principal shall inform the parent or guardian that the kindergarten/1st grade placement shall be contingent on the child's satisfactory adjustment to the school setting and satisfactory progress.
- H. If a request for early admission is denied under this policy, the child's parent or guardian may appeal the decision to the District Administrator.
- I. The decision of the District Administrator may be appealed to the School Board. The Board's decision regarding early admission shall be final.

Legal References:

Wisconsin Statutes

- [Section 118.13](#) [student nondiscrimination]
- [Section 118.14\(1\)](#) [entrance age for kindergarten and first grade]
- [Section 118.15\(1\)](#) [compulsory school attendance]
- [Section 118.33\(6\)\(cm\)](#) [mandatory kindergarten completion for first grade admission; procedures for exempting students from mandatory kindergarten required]
- [Section 120.12\(25\)](#) [school board duty; adoption of procedures for early admission to kindergarten and first grade]

EARLY ADMISSION ASSESSMENT GRID

CATEGORY	TOOL	STANDARD	TIME FRAME	PERSON RESPONSIBLE
AGE	Birth Certificate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 5K – 5 years old by 10/31 • 1st grade – 6 years old 10/31 		Parents/Guardian must provide
ACADEMIC	Developmental Indicators for the assessment of Learning (DIAL-4) 4K end of year assessment Able to write numbers 1-10	90 th national percentile or higher on all subtest areas Recognize/name LETTERS & SOUNDS of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 20/26 upper case • 20/26 lower case 100% accuracy	45-60 minutes	Kindergarten screening staff
SOCIAL/EMOTIONAL	DIAL-4 parent questionnaire	90 th percentile or higher on both areas (self-help and social development)	10-15 minutes	Parent/Guardian & kindergarten screening staff
INTELLECTUAL	Wechsler Pre-school and Primary Scale (WPPSI) or Stanford Binet	Full Scale = 130+ Even development across all processing areas	45-60 minutes	School Psychologist
MOTOR SKILLS	Beery-Buktenica Developmental Test of Visual-Motor Integration, 6th Edition (BEERY™ VMI)	Standard Score = 120+	15 minutes	School Psychologist
SPEECH/LANGUAGE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clinical Evaluation of Language Fundamentals – Preschool (CELF) • Language sample • Other formal assessments may be utilized if there are any noted discrepancies 	Standard scores = 120+ Language sample must indicate no significant findings for articulation and must be within an average range for Mean Length of Utterance (MLU)	45-60 minutes	Speech/Language Clinician