

## Admission & Qualifications of Attendance

### Eligibility

Students who will turn five years of age after the cut-off date of September 1 may be considered for early entrance into kindergarten at parent/guardian request, provided that the student meets screening criteria for early entrance.

As a minimum, eligibility for the exemption shall be based upon an analysis of the child's (1) physical, health and motor development, (2) social and emotional development, (3) approaches toward learning, (4) language, literacy and communication; and, (5) cognition and general knowledge. Where feasible, assessment devices shall be used that shall permit students who are to be considered for exemption to be compared to the level of performance that would be expected of children with a chronological age of 5 years and 6 months for kindergarten and 6 years and 6 months years for first grade in each of the areas of ability.

### Admission of Students Aged Twenty-One or Older

The student shall petition the Superintendent for admission.

The petition shall identify the student's name, age, address and grade level or program of study.

If approved, the petition shall specify the tuition fee to be paid, shall be signed by the student and the Superintendent and shall constitute the written agreement required by law. It shall be retained as a public document and made available to the state Superintendent of public instruction upon request.

The tuition fee shall be calculated in the same way the state Superintendent of public instruction determines the cost of educating a student in the District, except that a handicapped student who turns twenty-one during the school year shall only pay that amount of money deemed as "excess cost."

### Admission of Students for Early Entrance to Kindergarten or First Grade

The following procedures will be used for screening and conditional assignment.

#### Screening Procedure

- A. Parents/guardians must request the screening of their child through the Special Services Office by August 1 of the school year in which they are seeking entry. There will be a screening fee of \$300.00 per student to be paid by the parent for the assessment which will be conducted by a school psychologist. Students eligible for free/reduced lunch can request a waiver of the screening fee by the superintendent.
- B. Parents/guardians will be notified of a screening date. Screening will occur between the dates of August 5 and August 15.
- C. As a minimum, eligibility for the exemption shall be based upon an analysis of the pupil's:
  1. mental ability
  2. gross motor skills
  3. fine motor skills/visual discrimination
  4. auditory discrimination
  5. emotional/social development

- D. Parents/guardians will be notified of the screening results in writing on whether or not the child met eligibility criteria for early entrance. If the child meets eligibility criteria, it will be the parent's/guardian's responsibility to enroll the child at the attendance area school. Children who do not complete the screening will not be eligible.

Children eligible for early kindergarten entrance must have standard scores at the 50th percentile rank or higher in all areas and must have three or more areas at the 90th percentile rank or higher. Children eligible for early entrance to first grade must have standard scores at the 50th percentile rank or higher in all areas and must have three or more areas at the 90th percentile rank or higher.

#### **Conditional Assignment**

If the child meets eligibility criteria for early kindergarten or first grade entrance and the parent/guardian elects to early enroll the child, he/she will attend a classroom for a four-week trial period to determine the appropriateness of the placement. The building principal and kindergarten teacher will determine whether or not the child successfully completes the trial period and will notify the parent/guardian of the results. If the child does not successfully complete the trial period, the child will be withdrawn from the assignment and must wait until the following school year to attend. If the child successfully completes the trial period, the assignment will be made official.

#### **Admission to Transition Kindergarten Program**

For admission to the Transition Kindergarten Program, the student will be assessed using the West Valley Kindergarten Readiness Check List to ensure that the student will benefit from placement in the Transition Kindergarten Program.

#### **Early Entrance Eligibility Appeal**

If the parent/guardian seeks to review the eligibility decision of their child, the parent/guardian shall appeal in writing to the Superintendent's Office specifying the reason(s) for the appeal. Parents/guardians will be notified in writing of the appeal decision. The request for special exemption must be made in writing to the principal of the school in the attendance area where they reside.

#### **Initial Placement of Students**

Generally initial placement for the student's grade level will be the grade from which they transferred. However, the principal may choose to place the student in a different grade level based on multiple measures of data and parent/guardian input. The final decision for the student's grade level will rest with the principal.

Classification: Encouraged  
Revised: 03.15; 11.18; 09.22