



540 EARLY ENTRANCE TO KINDERGARTEN

I. PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to establish procedures for reviewing parent/guardian requests for early entrance to kindergarten.

II. GENERAL STATEMENT OF POLICY

The school board expects all students to achieve at an acceptable level of proficiency. In order to obtain optimal information when the question of early entrance to kindergarten arises, Columbia Heights Public Schools has developed procedures that will be consistent for all prospective students. We acknowledge a child's right to work at his or her appropriate level. Some children may need to be accepted early to kindergarten so that they have their needs met. Early entrance to kindergarten may be considered when school staff and parents feel that it is in the best interest of the child. A team of school personnel makes the final decision regarding early admission to kindergarten. Early childhood screening is conducted prior to referral for early entrance to kindergarten. An appointment for screening can be made by calling the Early Childhood Manager. Physical development, maturity, and emotional factors shall be considered as well as academic skills.

III. PROCEDURES

- A. Request for the referral packet is made to the placement center by parent or guardian
- B. Parent or guardian completes the referral packet and returns the packet to the placement center. The information gathered will consist of checklists and questionnaires to address physical, social and emotional development, maturity and academic skills.
- C. A team will then meet to discuss the positive and negative possibilities of the early entrance to kindergarten. The team shall consist of the following:
 1. school psychologist
 2. coordinator of gifted and talented
 3. principal
 4. student services director

D. If the team agrees to proceed, the following will be completed:

1. The school psychologist will give the student a standardized culturally sensitive assessment. If the score obtained is at or above the 85th percentile a secondary standardized culturally sensitive assessment will be administered.
2. The child must score at or above the 90th percentile to qualify for early entrance to kindergarten.

After completion of the above, the team will discuss the results and decide what is best for the child.

Applications will be accepted until June 1st of the calendar year in which the parent/guardian makes the referral for early entrance to kindergarten. The child should be four years old before the beginning of that school year.

IV. RESPONSIBILITY

The Director of Student Services shall have the responsibility to develop procedures and directives to implement School Board policy related to early entrance to kindergarten.

Legal References: Minn. Stat. § 124D.03 (Enrollment Options Program)
Minn. Stat. § 120A.20 (Admission to Public School)
Minn. Stat. § 124D.02, Subd. 1. (Kindergarten Instruction)

Cross References: