

STUDENTS

Entrance Qualifications: Attendance and Placement

Age of Admission

Attending the schools of the district shall be recognized as a right and responsibility for those who meet the requirements prescribed by law. Every resident of the district who satisfies the minimum entry age requirement and is less than 21 years of age has the right to attend the district's schools until he/she completes high school graduation requirements. Children of age 8 and less than age 18 are required by law to attend a public school, an approved private school or educational center, unless they are receiving approved home-based instruction. Under certain circumstances, children who are at least 16 and less than 18 years of age may be excused from further attendance at school. The superintendent shall exercise his/her authority to grant exceptions when he/she determines that the student:

1. is lawfully and regularly employed, and
2. has permission of a parent, or ,
3. is emancipated pursuant to Chapter 13.64 RCW, or
4. is subject to one of the other exceptions to compulsory attendance.

A resident student who has been granted an exception retains the right to enroll as a part-time student and shall be entitled to take any course, receive any ancillary services, and take or receive any combination of courses and ancillary services which is offered by a public school to full-time students.

Entrance Qualifications

Kindergarten and 1st Grade

To be admitted to a kindergarten program which commences in the fall of the year, a child must be not less than 5 years of age prior to September 1 of that school year. To be admitted to a first grade program which commences in the fall of the year, a child must be not less than 6 years of age prior to September 1 of that school year. Any student not otherwise eligible for entry to the first grade who has successfully completed a kindergarten program of 450 or more hours including instruction in language arts, arithmetic, and reading may be placed in the temporary classroom assignment for the purposes of evaluation prior to making a final determination of the student's appropriate placement. Such determination shall be made no later than the 30th calendar day following the student's first day of attendance.

An exception will be made for those students who are identified, in accordance with WAC 392-171, as developmentally handicapped. These students will be provided an appropriate education program commencing at age 3.

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Early Entrance to Kindergarten

The initial years of a child's education are critical to success in school. It is the belief that the vast majority of children are best served when entering kindergarten, having turned five years of age by the state established uniform age of entrance date of midnight, August 31st.

Parents or legal guardians of a child whose fifth birthday falls between August 31st and October 31st may apply for exception to the uniform age of entrance by applying to the Instruction Department.

Parents are urged to consider all aspects of readiness -- social, academic, emotional, large and small muscle coordination, and visual and auditory discrimination -- and to carefully consider the potential implications of being younger than peers through later grades when physical and social/emotional issues may have an increased impact on leadership, self-esteem, and wise decision making. Although this policy is designed to build in as many safeguards as possible, it is clear that no test results can adequately assess the long-range impact of an early entrance decision. The board urges thoughtful consideration of this important placement choice.

Admission of Students Aged Twenty-one or Older

A student aged 21 or older may enroll in adult educational programs available within the community.

Placement of Students on Admission

The decision of where to place a student seeking admission to the district rests with the superintendent/designee with the recommendation of the principal. Generally, students meeting the age of admission requirements or transferring from a public or approved private school shall be placed in kindergarten or first grade, or the grade from which they transferred. The principal/designee shall evaluate the educational record and assessment of all other students to determine their appropriate placement. When needed, a temporary classroom assignment may be made for no more than thirty calendar (30) days for the purpose of evaluation prior to making the final placement decision.

1

¹ Cross reference:	Policy	2140	Guidance and Counseling
		2167	Substance Abuse
		2168	Remediation Programs
		3122	Compulsory Attendance
		3141	Non-resident District Boundary Exceptions
		3310	Excused and Unexcused Absences
		5240	Complaints concerning Staff or Program

Legal reference:	RCW	28A.225.010	Attendance mandatory--Age-Person having custody shall cause child to attend public school-When excused	
		28A.225.020	School's duties upon juvenile's failure to attend school	
		28A.225.160	Attendance age eligibility	
		28A.225.220	Adults, children from other districts, agreement for attending school-Tuition	
	WAC	180-39	Uniform entry qualifications	
		392-134-010	Attendance rights of part-time public school students	
		392-137	District policies-Procedures and criteria for release of resident and admission of non-resident students	
		392-385-025	Local option exceptions to uniform entry qualification	

Adopted

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