

PORT EDWARDS PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Board of Education Policy

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ENTRANCE AGE

A child must be 5 years old by September 1 to enter kindergarten and 6 years old by September 1 to enter first grade.

The Port Edwards Board of Education recognizes that there are occasional exceptions to the entry date that could be considered. Therefore, it is the policy of the Port Edwards Board of Education to allow application for early entry into kindergarten. The Board will allow the review of requests from the parents of students whose birthdays fall between September 2 and December 31 of the school year.

It shall also be the policy of the Board of Education to allow the review of requests for early entry into First Grade from the parents of students whose birthdays fall between September 2 and December 31 of the school year.

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LEGAL REFERENCES:           Sections 118.13 Wisconsin Statutes  
   118.135  
   118.14  
   120.12(25)  
   252.04

Adopted:           01/15/79  
 Reviewed:  
 Revised:           06/81, 10/08/01, 11/08/04

## 421 - Rule

The following guidelines and procedures will be followed for application for early entry into kindergarten.

- (a) Written application shall be made by the parent to the elementary school principal by March 1 of the year in which early entry is requested. The deadline may be waived for persons new to the district.
- (b) A personal interview shall be held with the parents and the elementary principal and a kindergarten teacher to determine the parent's reasons for requesting entrance prior to the legal age. Legitimate reasons for early entry should be based on the child's educational welfare and not personal convenience.
- (c) Based on the results of the interview, the child may be scheduled to participate in the kindergarten screening process in April. A school team consisting of the principal, the kindergarten staff, the school nurse, and the speech and language clinician will review screening results.
- (d) The school team will make a recommendation on whether or not the child is superior in the full range of abilities based on objective standards of individual performance or need.
- (e) The team will then make a recommendation to grant or deny early entry. If the team cannot make a conclusive recommendation, the school psychologist will evaluate the child. The evaluations will be based on objective standards of individual performance or need. The evaluation will be at no cost to the parents.
- (f) After the evaluation has been completed, a conference shall be held with the parents to consider the appropriateness of early entrance into Kindergarten.

The school board has the final authority for deciding whether or not the child is to be admitted to Kindergarten in accordance with the following conditions and standards.

1. The child is superior in the full range of abilities and needs including social, emotional, physical and mental maturity, or
2. The child has been evaluated by an IEP Team and determined not to have a disability, but would benefit from an early intervention program, or
3. The child successfully completed a four-year-old public school kindergarten during the prior school year.
4. Any child accepted for early entry must meet all other conditions for enrollment in the school district (e.g. immunizations).

The following guidelines and procedures will be followed for application for early entry into first grade.

- (a) The parent shall make written application to the elementary school principal by March 1 of the year in which early entry is requested. The deadline may be waived for persons new to the district.
- (b) A personal interview shall be held with the elementary principal and a first grade teacher to determine the parent's reasons for requesting entrance prior to the legal age.
- (c) An evaluation of the child's potential benefit from early admission to first grade shall be required. The evaluation shall consider objective standards of individual performance or need. The child must meet all district criteria for kindergarten promotion. A certified psychologist shall conduct the individual evaluation. The evaluation shall be at no cost to the parents.
- (d) After the evaluation in (c) has been completed, a conference shall be held with the parents to consider the appropriateness of early entrance into first grade.
- (e) Any child accepted for early entry must meet all other conditions for enrollment in the school district (e.g. immunizations).

The school board has the final authority for deciding whether or not the child is to be admitted to first grade in accordance

with the following conditions and standards.

1. The child was admitted to and successfully completed Kindergarten, or
2. The child successfully completed a program for five-year-old children which the school district deems equivalent to Kindergarten; or
3. The child not meeting the conditions of (1) or (2) above but who, as a result of the evaluation prescribed in A.(2)(c) is considered capable of and whose educational welfare would best be served by placement in first grade.