

Section: **STUDENTS**

Regulation Title: **Qualifications of Attendance and Placement**

Early Entrance to Kindergarten

Special exemptions for children who do not meet the age requirements for admission to kindergarten may be granted if the student is sufficiently advanced to succeed in the educational program. The student must show evidence of advanced development in mental ability, gross motor skills, fine motor skills, visual discrimination, auditory discrimination, emotional/social development and language development.

Procedures are:

1. Parent(s)/guardian(s) requesting early entrance will make the request to the Special Education office.
2. Assessment. Parent(s)/guardian(s) requesting early admission may provide assessment results from a certified/licensed psychologist or request the assessment from the district.

As a minimum, eligibility for the exemption shall be based upon an analysis of the child's (1) mental ability, (2) gross motor skills, (3) fine motor skills, (4) visual discrimination, (5) auditory discrimination, (6) emotional/social development, and (7) language development. 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 for first grade in each of the areas of ability.

3. If the parent(s)/guardian(s) request assessment by the district, a fee of seventy-five dollars (\$75) is required. A waiver of required fees may be allowed for those students whose families meet the guidelines established for qualification for free or reduced priced lunches. Application forms for such a waiver of fees are available in all school offices.
4. Determination of Eligibility. The assessment must be presented to the Director of Special Programs for evaluation. The child must exceed the criteria in each of the ability areas. The Director of Special Education will make one of three determinations:
 - A. The child meets the criteria in each area.

- B. The child does not meet the criteria in each area.
- C. The director is unsure about the child's readiness and further assessment is needed.

If deemed necessary, further assessment may be administered by Kelso School District personnel.

- 5. If the parent(s)/ guardian(s) are in disagreement with the decision regarding early entrance or fees, an appeal may be obtained by requesting a review of the decision by the Assistant Superintendent.
- 6. Kindergarten children entering the district during the school year who are under age according to board policy will be enrolled in kindergarten on a provisional basis if the child has been performing in a satisfactory manner in some other public or Superintendent of Public Instruction approved private school kindergarten program. Final determination will be made no later than thirty (30) calendar days after the child's first day of attendance.

Early Entrance to First Grade

- 1. Children who are under age for admission to first grade may be admitted to first grade if the student is sufficiently advanced to succeed in the educational program.
 - A. If the child has successfully completed a year of kindergarten work in a public or SPI or district-approved private kindergarten program, the student will be admitted to first grade.
 - B. If the child has performed satisfactorily in the first grade of a public or SPI or district-approved private school system, the student will be admitted to first grade.
 - C. If the student has not been enrolled in kindergarten or when progress in kindergarten indicates the child may only be marginally successful in first grade, the student must show evidence of advanced development in mental ability, gross motor skills, fine motor skills, visual discrimination, auditory discrimination, emotional/ social development and language development. In this case the same procedures as outlined for early kindergarten entrance will be followed.

Admission of Students Aged Twenty-One or Older

The student shall petition the Superintendent/ designee 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.

Adopted:	<u>November 14, 1979</u>
Revised:	<u>March 1987</u>
Revised:	<u>September 13, 1995</u>
Revised:	<u>May 1998</u>
Revised:	<u>November 2005</u>
Revised:	<u>August 2008</u>
Revised:	<u>August 2011</u>