

**INTERNATIONAL FALLS PUBLIC SCHOOLS
INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT #361**

**BOARD POLICY 513.5
Kindergarten Early Entrance**

Adopted July, 2014

Revised _____

I. PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to provide guidance to the School Board, professional staff and parents regarding early entrance of children into kindergarten prior to reaching the age of five by September 1.

II. GENERAL STATEMENT OF POLICY

The International Falls Schools recognizes that some students may be ready for early entrance into kindergarten with a September or October birthday.

III. PROCEDURES

Children who turn five on September 1 or thereafter through October 31 may be considered for admission into kindergarten based on the following procedures:

1. Parent requests will be reviewed after the April 15th school request deadline. (see request form)
2. A school team will conduct a standardized assessment of the student's social/emotional/behavioral functioning. Children who appear socially/emotionally ready for kindergarten will be referred to district staff for completion of the assessment process. District and Northland Special Education Co-op staff will assess academic readiness for kindergarten. Prior testing results may be reviewed by the district in the event a family has participated in assessments prior to applying for early entrance to Kindergarten.
3. Children must demonstrate superior intellectual ability, defined as performance at or above the 90%ile on a nationally normed, individually administered test of cognitive ability, +/- the standard error of measurement.
4. A fee of \$100.00 is collected to cover pre-assessment and consultation time with an assessment team. This fee may be waived if the district decides it does not have to do an assessment. A birth certificate also needs to be presented for age verification. The assessment team will consist of Early Childhood teacher(s), special needs teacher(s), principal and psychologist.

5. The assessment team will review all information from all members and provide a recommendation concerning the early entrance request to the superintendent. The superintendent's decision is final.
6. Special requests made on behalf of students whose birthdates are beyond the October 31st date will be handled on a case-by-case basis and are subject to the Superintendent's discretion and approval.

Legal References: Minn. Stat. § 120A.20, 124D.02