

KINDERGARTEN/FIRST GRADE ENTRANCE

POLICY:

The Lake Stevens School District recognizes that the initial years of a child's education are important to the child's success in school. It is further recognized that school readiness in terms of maturity and physical and academic development is critical to this necessary initial success.

Entrance Qualifications

To be admitted to a kindergarten program which commences in the fall of the year, a child must be not less than five 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 six years of age prior to September 1 of that school year except where exemptions apply.

Exemptions

Special exemptions may be made for pupils whose birthdays occur between September 1 and September 30 and who appear to be sufficiently advanced to succeed in the educational program. 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 applicable, assessment devices shall be used that 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 five years and six months for kindergarten and six years and six months for first grade in each of the areas of ability. Children whose fifth birthday occurs after September 30 shall not be admitted to kindergarten.

Any student not otherwise eligible for entry to the first grade who has successfully completed a kindergarten program which conforms to state guidelines of 450 or more hours including instruction in language arts, arithmetic, and reading may be placed in a temporary classroom assignment

for the purpose of evaluation prior to making a final determination of the student's appropriate placement. Such determination shall be made by the District no later than the 30th calendar day following the student's first day of attendance.

Cross References:

(cf. 1360 - Complaints Regarding Staff Members)

Legal References:

RCW 28A.150.220 Basic Education Act-Program requirements-Program accessibility-Rules

RCW 28A.225.160 Qualification for admission to district's schools

WAC 180-39 Uniform Entry Qualifications

POLICY NO. 5035
Adopted: 5-14-80
Replaced: 5-8-96

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PROCEDURES:

Parents requesting an exemption shall provide to the District the results of an assessment using the instruments and processes approved by the Superintendent and conducted by a licensed or certified psychologist. The District reserves the right to reassess the child at its own cost before granting an exemption.

If a child exceeds the norm in each ability area, the exemption shall be granted. The Superintendent or his/her designee may grant conditional exemptions to children who perform at or near the norm in most or all of the areas of ability. The parent shall be notified of the conditional status of the exemption and that it may be withdrawn if, after two months, the child performs substantially below the expected level in any of the ability areas.

In the event an exemption is denied, a conditional exemption is withdrawn, the parent shall be promptly notified of the reasons and of the opportunity to have the decisions reviewed in the manner provided by the District's policy on citizen complaints.