

Adopted: July 16, 1985
Revised: April 28, 2003
Contact Person: Director of Student Services

POLICY 503.3 EARLY ADMISSION

The Bloomington Board of Education is committed to facilitating to the fullest extent possible the development of underage children with unusually high ability. Therefore the District shall establish procedures for the early admission of these children.

Board Review: July 16, 1985
November 9, 1998
April 28, 2003
March 28, 2005
Contact Person: Director of Student Services

REGULATION 503.3 EARLY ADMISSION

I. EARLY ADMISSION PROCEDURE - KINDERGARTEN

A. Criteria for Early Admission to Kindergarten

1. Children considered will be five (5) years of age between September 1 and November 1.
2. Children considered must obtain a standard score of 125 or higher on the Wechsler Preschool and Primary Scale of Intelligence-Third Edition.
3. Children considered must demonstrate advanced academic readiness and social-emotional development.

B. Procedure

1. Parents contact their neighborhood building principal, in writing, to request early admission for their child. The principal will facilitate a screening of the child using the Early Kindergarten Assessment, which assesses student readiness skills. In general, potentially successful applicants should perform well above the norm for their age group.
2. Teams and/or principals will be available for screening during the first week after the close of school in June and two weeks prior to the start of school.
3. Those children who perform well during the screening procedure will be recommended for an individual psychological assessment to be performed by a district-approved licensed psychologist. Parents will be responsible for the cost of the individual psychological assessment. The list of approved psychologists is available in the District Student Services Office.
4. Upon completion of the individual psychological evaluation the psychologist will provide a summary of the intellectual, academic and social-emotional findings with a recommendation to the building principal who will determine if the child meets the district criteria, make a decision for or against early admission and notify parents of the decision.

C. Decision Making

1. Parents will be asked to provide information about their child's unique learning characteristics as it applies to early admission.
2. Recommendation - Psychologist
3. Decision – Principal

D. Appeal Process

Parents who do not agree with the decision of the Principal as outlined above may request, in writing, that the Assistant Superintendent and/or designee review the information and procedure regarding their child to assure appropriate policy implementation.

II. EARLY ADMISSION PROCEDURE - FIRST GRADE

A. Criteria for Early Admission to First Grade

1. Children considered will be six (6) years of age between September 1 and November 1.
2. Children considered must obtain a standard score of 125 or higher on the Wechsler Preschool and Primary Scale of Intelligence-Third Edition.
3. Children considered must demonstrate advanced academic readiness and social-emotional development.
4. EXCEPTION: Children having successfully completed a public kindergarten or currently enrolled in a public school kindergarten classroom evidencing very superior intellectual, academic and social-emotional development, may be advanced early to first grade. The formal procedures stated below are not required in such cases. However, the classroom teacher will provide written documentation of the child's advanced development with a recommendation for early grade advancement. The building principal will make a decision for or against early grade advancement. Informed parental consent is required.

B. Procedure

1. Parents contact their local building principal in writing, to request early admission to first grade. The Principal will facilitate a screening of the child using interview, observation and formal and informal readiness measures.
2. Teams and/or Principals will be available for screening during the first week after the close of school in June and two weeks prior to the start of school.
3. Those children who perform well above the norm for their age group during the screening procedure will be recommended for an individual psychological assessment to be performed by a district-approved licensed psychologist. Parents will be responsible for the cost of the individual psychological assessment. The list of approved psychologists is available in the District Student Services Office.
4. Upon completion of the individual psychological evaluation the psychologist will provide a summary of the intellectual, academic and social-emotional findings with a recommendation to the building principal who will determine if the child meets the district criteria, make a decision for or against early admission and notify parents of the decision.

C. Decision making

1. Parents will be asked to provide information about their child's unique learning characteristics as it applies to early admission.
2. Recommendation – Psychologist
3. Decision – Principal

D. Appeal Process

Parents who do not agree with the decision of the Principal as outlined above may request, in writing, that the Assistant Superintendent review the information and procedure regarding their child to assure appropriate policy implementation.