

Stanley-Boyd Area Schools

School District Policy: Early Entrance to Kindergarten

A child may be admitted to the district's kindergarten program before the legal age, as established by Section 115.28(8) Wis. Laws, if he/she meets either the criteria in number one below or the criterion of number two:

1. The child is superior in intellectual development, language development, and independent behaviors (ex. motor development, social interaction/communication skills, and personal skills). Superior development is defined as functioning at or above the 92nd percentile* as compared to his/her same age peers. These areas will be screened using standardized measures. Informal screenings will also be considered as part of the evaluation in the form of observations, interviews and teacher made assessments in regard to kindergarten readiness skills.
2. The child successfully completed a four-year-old public school kindergarten program during the preceding school year.

Eligibility shall be established through the following procedures

The Stanley-Boyd Area Schools Administration believes that it is in only the most extraordinary and exceptional case that early admission to school is appropriate or a benefit to the child admitted early. Based upon research findings, a review of professional literature and past experience, the administration recognizes that children do develop at different rates. The following procedures will be followed when parents wish to enter their child in kindergarten at an earlier age than recommended by the Department of Public Instruction. (DPI).

1. A written parent/guardian request for consideration of early admission shall be made to **a district administrator no later than April 1st**. Application forms are available at the elementary school or district offices.

2. The child must turn five within 30 days of the early admission to kindergarten. Therefore, a child applying for early admission to kindergarten must be 5 on or before September 30th.

3. A personal interview shall be held to discuss the parent's reasons for requesting entrance prior to the legal age. District staff involved shall include at least three of the following: **the building principal and/or director of pupil services; kindergarten teacher; reading specialist; and a guidance counselor**. This team shall explain the criteria to be used for determining early admission eligibility.

***4. An evaluation/assessment will be conducted of the child's potential to demonstrate long-term successful performance over the child's educational career. The child should demonstrate superior intellectual development and language skills. The assessment will be by the test instrument determined by the school district. Assessment results should indicate that the child has scored in the 98th percentile or better on the total test with no less than 95th percentile in the areas of acquired knowledge and mental processes and scores at an instructional level on second grade reading materials for early entrance to kindergarten. This evaluation will be at no cost to the parent.**

5. The evaluation/assessment will include a measurement of the child's ability levels in the areas of social/emotional development, advanced physical, social and emotional maturity. These skills include:

- the ability to work and play in unfamiliar surroundings;
- appropriate attending skills;
- ability to work independently;
- ability to follow multi-step oral directions;
- separating comfortably from parents; and
- interacting appropriately with age peers.

6. Following the evaluation/assessment, the district team (as identified above) and the parents/guardians will share assessment results and the district team shall make a placement recommendation.

7. A child accepted for early admission must meet all other conditions for enrollment for the school district: immunization requirements, residency requirements, etc.

8. In the event the district team does not recommend early admission, the parents/guardians may appeal the decision to the District Superintendent. If consensus is still not met, the parent may appeal the decision to the School Board.

9. If early admission is granted, the placement will be reviewed during the first quarter of the placement to determine the placement is appropriate for the child. The child's parent(s), classroom teacher, building principal, and director of pupil services will be involved in the review process. If placement is found to be inappropriate at that time, the placement may be modified or denied.

10. Evaluation for early admission will take place prior to August 15th of the current school year.

11. Parents will be notified in writing regarding the child's eligibility for early admission to kindergarten.

12. In the event extenuating circumstances are evident, dates and procedures noted within this policy may be subject to change at the discretion of school administration.

13. In conjunction with the parents, the Stanley-Boyd Area Schools' Administration reserves the right to retain a child in future years if the child's performance falls below grade level expectations.

The Stanley-Boyd Area School District shall not discriminate in admission to any school, class, program or activity on the basis of sex, race, national origin, ancestry, creed, pregnancy, parental or marital status, sexual orientation or physical, learning, emotional or mental disability. Discrimination complaints shall be filed in accordance with established procedures.

Note: Entrance to Grade One is addressed in the Acceleration Administrative Rule.