

## **Students**

### **Qualification of Attendance and Placement Procedure**

#### **Entrance Qualifications for Kindergarten Program**

As a minimum, eligibility for the exemption from the age requirement will be based upon an analysis of the child's (1) physical, health and motor development; (2) social and emotional development; (3) approaches toward learning; (4) language, literacy, and communication; and (5) cognition and general knowledge. Where feasible, assessment devices will be used that will 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 (5) years for kindergarten and six (6) years for first grade in each of the areas of ability.

#### **State-Mandated Kindergarten and First Grade Enrollment Parameters**

To be admitted to a kindergarten program commencing in the fall of the year, a child must be five (5) years of age as of August 31 of that school year.

To be admitted to a first-grade program that commences in the fall of the year, a child must be six (6) years of age as of August 31 of that school year.

Parents are required to submit a birth certificate, hospital certificate signed by the attending physician, baptismal certificate, or passport.

Any child who has successfully completed a kindergarten program in state-approved, public, or private kindergarten program that substantially equaled or exceeded the applicable basic education program requirements of RCW 28A.150.220 and WAC 180-16-200 through 180-16-220 will be permitted entry into first grade. Home-based instruction does not qualify a student for early entrance into first grade.

Prior to enrollment in a Snohomish School District school, the parent must provide a transcript from the state-approved public or private school demonstrating the student's successful completion of the state-approved kindergarten program, as well as a recommendation from the student's teacher as to the student's appropriate grade placement.

#### **Snohomish School District Kindergarten Early Entrance Procedures**

Parents or guardians of children who turn five between September 1<sup>st</sup> and October 31<sup>st</sup> and who feel their child will be successful in kindergarten may apply for early entrance to kindergarten.

As parents consider early entrance of their children to kindergarten, the following areas should be evaluated. The qualifying score in each area is at least 5 years, 6 months age equivalent for placement as a kindergarten student. Families may select an outside agency/professional from the list provided by the district, or they may contract with others not on the list. The professional/agency must provide certification as a psychologist (school/clinical) or

occupational/physical therapist for the motor areas. All evaluation scores and analysis should be submitted to Executive Director of Teaching and Learning Services, Snohomish School District, 1601 Avenue D, Snohomish, WA 98290, no later than the first Monday in August in order to be considered for kindergarten placement. The testing information will be reviewed, and parents will be notified of the decision no later than the last day in August.

1. **Mental Ability:** Mental (cognitive) ability refers to the child's ability to receive information, process that information in a meaningful way, and provide an appropriate output. As examples, this could involve responding to verbal questions, completing visual logic diagrams or mazes, or repeating back a list of stimuli provided to the child. Recommended tests: Stanford-Binet Intelligence Scale; Battelle Developmental Inventory, or Kaufman Assessment Battery for Children.
2. **Gross Motor Skills:** Gross motor skills are reflected in the child's use of a large muscle group, or coordination of multiple muscle groups, in a movement that involves substantial portions of their body - such as skipping, throwing a ball, or getting into or out of a desk. Recommended test: The Peabody Developmental Motor Scales.
3. **Fine Motor Skills:** Fine motor skills refer to the child's ability to use the smallest muscles of the body to complete a rather detailed, yet well-coordinated and effective movement or task - such as holding a crayon, buttoning their jacket, and peeling an orange. Recommended test: The Peabody Developmental Motor Scales.
4. **Visual Discrimination:** Visual-Discrimination skills are certain visual skills recognized to be critical to the development of early reading decoding abilities as well as other academic domains. Typical visual discrimination activities involve matching colors, pictures, or shapes, identifying gross or fine visual differences between similar letters, words or pictures and visually recognizing "word boundaries." Recommended tests: The Developmental Test of Visual Motor Integration; McCarthy Scales of Children's Abilities (selected subtests).
5. **Auditory Discrimination:** At young developmental ages, auditory discrimination activities often require accurately repeating a given word, phrase, or sentence, recognizing spoken words that are 'alike' or 'different,' and identifying words, from listening, that begin or end with the same consonant sound. These skills are critical to early reading and language arts development. Recommended tests: The Goldman-Fristoe-Woodcock Test of Auditory Discrimination; McCarthy Scales of Children's Abilities (selected subtests).
6. **Social-Emotional:** This area of development for children is rather comprehensive and often involves aspects of communication skills, self-care and personal hygiene, and social behaviors. Assessment of a child's development level for this domain typically involves surveys completed by primary caretakers or staff as well as direct observations

of the child's functioning in relevant social situations. Recommended tests: Vineland Scales of Adaptive Behavior; Battelle Developmental Inventory.

Students who reside in the Snohomish School District and whose families, due to their low income, would have difficulty paying for the required assessments, may apply to the district for a waiver from paying for the assessments. To obtain a waiver, families would have to qualify under free and/or reduced-price lunch guidelines. The district will assume the full cost of the assessment for families who qualify according to free/reduced lunch guidelines.

Children who qualify with at least 5 years, 6 months age equivalent in each assessment area may be enrolled for a thirty (30) calendar day evaluation period, during which the kindergarten teacher and principal will observe the child with consultation of the school psychologist and make a final determination for continuation. It is strongly recommended that the principal and/or teacher make a weekly report to the parent on the child's adjustment and progress. If it is determined that the child's enrollment be discontinued in the kindergarten program, the principal or designee will meet with the parent and share the results of the thirty (30) day evaluation period. If it is determined that the student continue in the kindergarten program, the parent/guardian will be notified in writing.

#### **Snohomish School District First Grade Early Entrance Procedures**

Parents of children not eligible to enter first grade because their sixth (6) birthday falls after August 31, may request from the Superintendent's designee and/or the elementary principal, a form to waive the state age requirement based on successful completion of kindergarten in a program which is a state-approved public, or private kindergarten program that substantially equals or exceeds the basic education requirements of RCW 28A.150.200 and WAC 180-16-200 through 180-16-220.

When the principal receives a transcript from the kindergarten program that is from a state-approved public or private kindergarten program and it substantially equals or exceeds basic education requirements as stated above and a letter from the child's kindergarten teacher recommending first grade placement, the principal will complete the First Grade Early Assessment form 3110F2 and then submit it to the Executive Director of Teaching and Learning Services. The child may then be enrolled for a thirty (30) calendar day evaluation period.

After the thirty (30) day evaluation period, the principal, teacher, and psychologist will recommend the continuation in the first grade or appropriate grade level placement.

The Snohomish School District reserves the right to consider alternative placement at any time during the school year should the child's rate of learning accelerate or decelerate, thereby causing potential harm to the child in the learning environment.

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