

Early Entrance into First Grade**

The current Oregon Law states that a child entering first grade must be six years of age on or before September 1. However, the current law does not prevent a school Board from accelerating a child, if the child's cognitive, social, and physical development would best be met at a different grade level.

The parent/guardian of a student not meeting the age requirement for entrance into first grade must provide proof that his/her student has successfully completed an in or out of state public kindergarten. The parent/guardian must provide to the Director of Curriculum and Instruction: 1) A certified transcript and/or permanent record of successful completion of kindergarten and 2) A copy of the previous district's kindergarten curriculum scope and sequence for review. The Director of Curriculum and Instruction will evaluate the materials provided and make a determination of the child's eligibility to enter first grade prior to September 1.

If a parent/guardian cannot provide the Director of Curriculum and Instruction with the items outlined above, the following procedure is the process through which a student may be accelerated from kindergarten to first grade.

1. Any student who is not six on or before September 1 must enter kindergarten at the beginning of the school year.
2. After the second week of school, but before November 1 st, the teacher and/or parents makes a recommendation to the principal to have the student tested for advancement to first grade.
3. The principal notifies the Best Team of the request.
4. The Best Team meets to discuss the student, and Best Team determines the need for further evaluation.

The following battery of assessments will be administered to eligible students:

1. Interview with parents
2. The Woodcock Johnson III Tests of Cognitive Abilities and Tests of Achievement.
3. Development history of the child.

The child must achieve the following scores on the battery of tests administered:

1. A score at or above the 97th percentile for his or her age group on the General Intellectual Ability Standard Battery on the Woodcock Johnson III Tests of Cognitive Abilities.

2. A score at or above the 97th percentile for his or her age group on the Total Achievement cluster of the Woodcock Johnson III Tests of Achievement, which includes Broad Reading, Broad Math, and Broad Written Language.

A summary of the report will be given to the Best Team. The Best Team will make a decision about the child's placement based on the child's scores. In the event that the child does not meet the criteria, but does excel in certain areas, the Best Team will determine the appropriate placement to meet the child's individual needs.

The Best Team will conference with the parents to inform them of the testing results and appropriate placement of the child.

If the child meets the criteria to be advanced into first grade, options will be discussed with parents to make the transition process as soon as possible for the child.

GRADE LEVEL ACCELERATION DECISION

Student's Name _____ Birthdate _____

Address _____ Phone _____

Present School _____ Present Grade _____

After considerable professional deliberation and review of your child's transcript and previous district kindergarten curriculum scope and sequence, the following recommendation has been made:

Eligibility denied for the following reasons:

_____ Previous kindergarten experience was not in a public school.

_____ Kindergarten curriculum scope and sequence does not meet the district's curriculum.

_____ Transcript indicates student did not successfully complete a public kindergarten program.

_____ Student's attendance was less than the required amount of days to meet the district's attendance standards.

_____ Other

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Director of Curriculum and Instruction