
QUALIFICATIONS OF ATTENDANCE AND PLACEMENT

A. Age of Admission

Attending the schools of the district shall be recognized as a right and responsibility for those who meet the requirements prescribed by law. Every resident of the district who satisfies the minimum entry age requirement and is less than twenty-one (21) years of age has the right to attend the district's schools until he/she completes high school graduation requirements. Children of age eight (8) and less than age eighteen (18) are required by law to attend a public school, an approved private school, or educational center, unless they are receiving approved home-based instruction. Under certain circumstances children who are at least sixteen (16) and less than eighteen (18) years of age may be excused from further attendance at school. The superintendent or designee shall exercise his/her authority to grant exceptions when he/she determines that the student:

1. Is lawfully and regularly employed, and
2. Has permission of a parent, or
3. Is emancipated pursuant to Chapter 13.64 RCW, or is subject to one of the other exceptions to compulsory attendance.

A resident student who has been granted an exception retains the right to enroll as a part-time student and shall be entitled to take any course, receive any ancillary services and take or receive any combination of courses and ancillary services which is offered by a public school to full-time students.

B. Entrance Qualifications

To be admitted to a kindergarten program that commences in the fall of the year, a child must be not less than five (5) years of age prior to September 1 of that school year. To be admitted to a first grade program that commences in the fall of the year, a child must be not less than six (6) years of age prior to September 1 of that school year. Any student not otherwise eligible for entry to the first grade, who has successfully completed a state-approved kindergarten program of four hundred-fifty (450) or more hours including instruction in the essential academic learning requirements and other subjects that the district determines are appropriate shall be permitted entry into the first-grade program. If necessary, the student may be placed in a temporary classroom assignment for the purposes of evaluation prior to making a final determination of the student's appropriate placement. Such determination shall be made no later than the thirtieth (30th) calendar day following the student's first day of attendance.

If a student is age six (6) at the beginning of his/her kindergarten school year and is qualified for special education services or is ESL eligible, a full-day program may be considered based on recommendation of the building multi-disciplinary team. Consideration will include class size, progress made toward IEP goals, competence in the English language, and other educational needs.

Exemptions

Special exemptions may be made for younger pupils who appear to be sufficiently advanced to succeed in the educational program. The superintendent or designee shall identify screening processes and instruments that shall provide reliable estimates of these skills and abilities, develop procedures for implementing this policy, and establish fees to cover expenses incurred in the administration of preadmission screening processes. The district shall provide a fee waiver or a reduction in fees for low income students whose parents are unable to pay the full cost of preadmission screening.

If a student performs at or above specified levels on all screening tests, the student will be granted admission on a conditional status. The superintendent or designee may grant conditional exemptions to children who perform at or near specified levels in some but not all areas. The parent/guardian shall be notified of the conditional status for admission. Final determination of the student's placement shall be made no later than the thirtieth (30) calendar day following the student's first day of attendance. Parents may appeal decisions to the superintendent. The superintendent's decision regarding early entrance admission will be final.

C. Admission of Students Aged Twenty-One (21) or Older

A student aged twenty-one (21) or older may enroll in a school in the district under the following conditions:

1. There is available space in the school and program that the student shall attend;
2. Tuition is prepaid;
3. The student provides his/her own transportation;
4. The student resides in the state of Washington; and
5. In the judgment of the superintendent, no adult education program is available at reasonable costs and the district's program is appropriate to the needs of the student.

D. Placement of Students on Admission

The decision of where to place a student seeking admission to the district rests with the principal. Generally students meeting the age of admission requirements or transferring from a public or approved private school shall be placed in kindergarten or first grade, or the grade from which they transferred. The principal shall evaluate the educational record and assessments of all other students to determine their appropriate placement. A temporary classroom assignment may be made for no more than thirty (30) calendar days for the purpose of evaluation prior to making the final placement decision. Parents may appeal decisions to the superintendent. The superintendent's decision regarding placement will be final.

Cross References:	Board Policy	2090	Program Evaluation
		2121	Drug and Alcohol Use/Abuse Program
		2140	Guidance and Counseling
		2108	Remediation Program

3114	Part-time, Home-based, or Off-campus Students
3121	Compulsory Attendance
3122	Excused or Unexcused Absences
4312	Complaints Concerning Staff or Program

Legal References:	RCW	28A.225.010	Attendance mandatory--Age--Person having custody shall cause child to attend public school -- when excused
		28A.225.020	School's duties upon juvenile's failure to attend school
		28A.225.160	Attendance age eligibility
		28A.225.220	Adults, children from other districts, agreements for attending school--Tuition
	WAC	180-39	Uniform Entry Qualifications
		392-134-010	Attendance rights of part-time public school students
		392-137	District policies--Procedures and criteria for release of resident students and admission of nonresident students