



Policy Number: 535  
Adopted: 7/22/2020

## Age of Entrance Procedures

### I. PURPOSE

The purpose of this regulation is to implement the Age of Entrance policy by making provisions for the most appropriate placement of each student.

### II. GENERAL STATEMENT OF REGULATION

#### A. *Kindergarten Admission.*

1. Children whose fifth (5<sup>th</sup>) birthday is on or before September 1 are eligible for kindergarten entrance without assessment.
2. Children whose fifth (5<sup>th</sup>) birthday is on September 2 or thereafter through November 31 may be considered for admission to kindergarten based upon an assessment procedure that is described in Section III (below).
3. Children whose fifth (5<sup>th</sup>) birthday is on September 2 or thereafter and who transferred from another public or nonpublic school as a kindergarten student may be admitted to a Midway Star kindergarten.

B. *First-Grade Admission of Children Not Previously in School.* If a child is six years old on September 1 of the present school year, the child shall be placed in first grade, unless the parent requests that the child be placed in kindergarten and the Executive Director agrees with the placement.

#### C. *Underage Children Previously in School, but Entering a Midway Star Academy for the First Time*

Children who have attended a public or nonpublic school may be admitted directly to the same grade they were in at the former school if entry is during the school year, or to the next grade following their last successfully completed grade if entry is at the beginning of a school year, even though they are underage according to Midway Star admission policy. Placement is made on the basis of evidence from school records from the school of the student's previous enrollment.

D. Entering students are required to present adequate evidence of birth date through one of the following:

1. a birth certificate (preferred if available)
2. I-94 Immigration documents
3. other documentary evidence of the birth date
4. a signed statement from the parent declaring the birth date of the student.

E. Students who present an I-94 Immigration document as proof of date of birth in lieu of a birth certificate must abide by the date of birth on the form.

F. Prekindergarten-aged students with a disability are required to have an assessment conducted that establishes eligibility for special education and services. Parents shall be notified that the assessment may be conducted through the Midway Star Academy at no cost to them.

### **III. ASSESSMENT PROCEDURE FOR EARLY ADMISSION TO KINDERGARTEN**

A. Parents interested in early kindergarten admission for their children will submit a choice card to the school and have their children complete the early childhood screening process.

B. School-based assessment teams will interview parents and, with their permission, current or previous daycare or preschool placements regarding the child's readiness for kindergarten.

C. The school-based assessment team will review the interview data and schedule observations in a kindergarten classroom of a child who meets the initial criteria as ready for early entry. Children's social- social-emotional-behavioral competencies will be rated during these observations. School staff will report the results of this observation to the parents.

D. Prospective students who, upon the assessment performed at the school appear to be ready for kindergarten will be referred again by the school to the School's Early Childhood Education Team for direct assessment of academic readiness. The Early Childhood Education Team will assess the academic readiness of the child and report to parents the decision made on whether or not the child is offered early admission to kindergarten.

E. The Executive Director of the school will inform deans, parents, and the Student Placement director which students have been accepted based on interview, observation, and all assessment data.

F. Parents seeking early admission must acknowledge in writing that the child may be exited from kindergarten into a District pre-kindergarten program (if space is available) or out of school, based on a recommendation from the teacher and principal after placement has been made, if the student displays non-readiness for kindergarten on a regular basis.

G. During the first four weeks of placement in kindergarten, the classroom teacher will communicate with the parents regarding the student's academic and behavioral progress and needs.

H. By the end of September or the first five weeks of placement, the teacher and principal will recommend to parents in writing whether the placement in kindergarten should be terminated. Parents must find a new placement for the child within a month of this notice if a District pre-kindergarten program place is not available.

I. Parents of children who receive early admission must acknowledge in writing that the student is subject to the attendance requirements of all admitted students in kindergarten through eighth-grade programs.

***Legal References:***

Minn. Stat. §120A.20 (Admission to Public School) Minn. Stat. §120A.22 (Compulsory Instruction)

Minn. Stat. §125A.03 (Special Instruction for Children with a Disability)

Minnesota Rules Part 3525.0300 (Provision of Full Services [for children with disabilities]) Minnesota Rules Part 3525.0750 (Identification of Pupils with Disabilities)

Minnesota Rules Part 3525.1350 (Infant and Toddler Intervention Services)

Minnesota Rules Part 3525.1351 (Intervention Services: Ages Three Through Six Years)