

## QUALIFICATIONS OF ATTENDANCE AND PLACEMENT

### 1. 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 21 years of age has the right to attend the district's schools until he/she completes high school graduation requirements. Children of age 8 and less than age 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 16 and less than 18 years of age may be excused from further attendance at school. The superintendent shall exercise his/her authority to grant exceptions when he/she determines that the student:

- A. Is lawfully and regularly employed, and
- B. Has permission of a parent, or,
- C. Is emancipated pursuant to Chapter 13.64 RCW; or
- D. Is subject to one of the other exceptions to compulsory attendance pursuant to Chapter 28A.225 RCW.

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.

### 2. Entrance Qualifications

To be admitted to a kindergarten program which commences in the fall of the year a child must be not less than 5 years of age prior to September 1 of that school year. To be admitted to a first grade program which commences in the fall of the year a child must be not less than 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 450 or more hours including instruction in language arts, arithmetic, and reading 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 30th calendar day following the student's first day of attendance.

If a student is age 6 at the beginning of his/her kindergarten school year and (1) qualified for special education services, or (2) ESL eligible, a full day program may be considered based on recommendation of the building multi-disciplinary team. Consideration will include class size 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 and who will be 5 years of age on or before September 30. To enter first grade on an exemption a child must be 6 on or before September 30 and appear to be sufficiently advanced to succeed in the educational program. The

superintendent shall identify screening processes and instruments that shall provide reliable estimates of these skills and abilities.

Screening will be conducted by the District school psychologist. The district will charge a fee of \$100 to partially cover the cost of this assessment should it take place outside the normal school day.

If a child tests at the Above Average Range in six of the following seven areas tested the exception shall be granted. The areas are: 1) acquired knowledge, 2) gross motor skills, 3) fine motor skills, 4) visual skills, 5) auditory association, 6) emotional/social development, and 7) verbal-conceptual skills. The parent shall be notified of the conditional status of the exemption and that it may be withdrawn if, after 1 calendar month, the child performs substantially below the expected level in any of the ability areas.

In the event an exemption is denied, a conditional exemption is withdrawn, or a screening fee waiver is denied, the parent shall be promptly notified of the reasons and of the opportunity to have the decisions reviewed in the manner provided by the district's policy on citizen complaints.

### 3. Admission of Students Aged Twenty-One or Older

A student aged 21 or older may enroll in a school in the district under the following conditions:

- A. A written petition is submitted to the Superintendent and is approved by the Superintendent;
- B. There is available space in the school and program that the student shall attend;
- C. An approved petition shall specify a tuition amount that must be pre-paid. The tuition shall be calculated in the same way OSPI determines the cost of educating a student in the district.
- D. The student provides his/her own transportation;
- E. The student resides in the state of Washington; and
- F. 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.

### 4. 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 students to determine their appropriate placement. A temporary classroom assignment may be made for no more than thirty calendar days for the purpose of evaluation prior to making the final placement decision.

Cross References:	Board Policy	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

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