

Adopted: 9/11/2000

Reviewed: 5/18/2023

503.1 STUDENT ATTENDANCE-AGE OF INITIAL ENTRANCE

I. PURPOSE

- A. The school board believes that students entering school for the first time should be developmentally ready to learn, regardless of the student's chronological age. Therefore, ISD #139 will consider early entrance of students into kindergarten and/or delayed entrance of a student subject to Minn. Stat. § 120A.22 (Compulsory Instruction).
- B. This policy exercises Board authority as specified in Minn. Stat. § 120A.20, Subd. 1 for admission of selected pupils at an earlier age.

II. GENERAL STATEMENT OF POLICY

A. Kindergarten Enrollment

Students entering Kindergarten must be five (5) years of age on or before September 1st of the year they intend to enroll in school. Kindergarten is not mandatory but strongly encouraged by the District.

B. First Grade Enrollment

Students initially enrolling in school and entering first grade must be six (6) years of age on or before September 1st of the year they intend to enroll in school. Enrollment of children in school, subject to Minn. Stat. § 120A.22 (Compulsory Instruction), is required of parents.

C. Early Kindergarten Enrollment

A parental request for a child's early enrollment in kindergarten may be honored subject to valid testing information clearly indicating that the child is developmentally ready to learn. Testing will be conducted by Rush City Schools or by another agency of the parent/guardian's choosing, subject to the Elementary Principal's approval. All costs associated with early enrollment testing shall be the responsibility of the parent/guardian. Approval of early enrollment in kindergarten resides with the Elementary Principal. A denial of early enrollment by the Elementary Principal may be appealed directly to the Board of Education by contacting either the Superintendent of Schools or the Chairperson of the Board.

1) Testing Criteria

Minimally, the following criteria shall be considered in ascertaining a child's readiness to enroll in kindergarten:

- a) Pre-school experiences/attendance
- b) Intellectual Development
- c) Language Development
- d) Social Maturity
- e) Physical Maturity
- f) Ability to follow directions
- g) Attention Span
- h) Interest in typical Kindergarten activities
- i) Ability to stay on task
- j) Ability to work independently

D. Deferral of Kindergarten Enrollment

A parent/guardian considering deferring their child's enrollment into kindergarten are encouraged to contact the Elementary Principal. Consultation and testing may be conducted, and a recommendation made relative to the child's readiness to enroll in school.

III. **DISSEMINATION OF POLICY**

This policy shall also be available upon request in each principal's office.

Legal References: Minn. Stat. § 120A.20, Subd. 1 (Admission Public School, Age limitations)
Minn. Stat. § 120A.22 (Compulsory Instruction)

Cross References: ISD #139 Policy #503 (Student Attendance)