

ADMISSION TO FIRST GRADE

421.1

In order to be admitted to first grade in the District, a child must be at least six years of age by September 1 of the year he/she proposes to enter first grade and have successfully completed 5-year-old kindergarten.

Admission to first grade under the age of six may be permitted if: (1) the child has successfully completed a 5-year-old kindergarten program or its equivalent, or (2) the child demonstrates the academic and developmental readiness skills expected for successful participation in first grade. Evidence must exist that the child's educational welfare would best be served by placement in first grade.

A child who is six years of age on or before September 1 of the year he/she proposes to enter first grade but has not completed 5-year-old kindergarten may be admitted to first grade if the child meets any of the following requirements:

1. The child has successfully completed an educational program for five-year-old children in a private school or licensed day care center that the school district deems equivalent to public school 5-year-old kindergarten. Documentation of program completion shall be required.
2. The child demonstrates academic and developmental readiness skills expected for successful participation in first grade. Evidence must exist that the child's educational welfare would best be served by placement in first grade.
3. Before either commencing or completing first grade, the child moved into Wisconsin from a state, country or territory in which completion of 5-year-old kindergarten is not a prerequisite to entering first grade.
4. Before either commencing or completing first grade, the child moved into Wisconsin from a state, country or territory in which completion of 5-year-old kindergarten is prerequisite to entering first grade and the child was exempted from the requirement to complete 5-year-old kindergarten in the state, country or territory from which the child moved.

The decision to grant admission to first grade before the legal entrance age and/or without completion of 5-year-old kindergarten shall be made by the building principal. The building principal may consult with other school staff as appropriate when making this decision.

If first grade admission is denied under this policy, the child's parent or guardian may appeal the principal's decision to the Director of Student Services. The Director of Student Services shall meet with the child's parent or guardian to discuss the first grade admission request, review relevant student data related to the request, and then make a decision regarding the child's first grade admission. The Director of Student Services's decision regarding the request shall be final.

A child who is of compulsory attendance age (six years old), who has not completed 5-year-old kindergarten, and who has not been granted an exemption to the mandatory kindergarten completion requirement shall be placed in 5-year-old kindergarten in the District or be expected to meet compulsory attendance requirements through other means authorized by state law.

Legal References:

Wisconsin Statutes

Section 118.13	[student nondiscrimination]
Section 118.14(1)	[entrance age for first grade]
Section 118.15(1)	[compulsory school attendance]
Section 118.33(6)(cm)	[mandatory kindergarten completion for first grade admission; procedures for exemptions required]
Section 120.12(25)	[school board duty; prescribe conditions, standards and procedures for early admission to first grade]

Adoption Date: **04/25/2022**