

POLICY

BOARD OF EDUCATION OF MONTGOMERY COUNTY

Related Entries: ACA, JEB-RA, JEB-RB, JEB-EA

Responsible Office: Chief Academic Officer

Early Entrance to Prekindergarten, Kindergarten, and First Grade

A. PURPOSE

To ensure that the early years of a student's education provide the solid foundation critical to ongoing academic success. Since the first years are so essential to a successful long-term educational experience, every effort is made to ensure that students entering prekindergarten, kindergarten, and first grade are ready to learn and be successful. Balancing current understanding of the long-term effects of early education with the unique needs of each student requires careful consideration. The Board of Education, in accordance with state regulation, holds that generally students are best served when they enter school at the ages research indicates is most conducive to long-term success. However, this policy and state regulation have prescribed the consideration of the individual needs of students for early entrance.

B. ISSUES

The decision regarding early entrance to prekindergarten, kindergarten, and first grade requires careful consideration of all factors. The academic, social, and emotional readiness, as well as the student's physical development and well-being, must be weighed and institutional factors may also be considered. Sound decision making in the area of early entrance to prekindergarten, kindergarten, and first grade is dependent upon reliable information regarding a student's readiness and a thoughtful balancing of the myriad of factors implicated by the decision.

C. POSITION

It is the presumption of the Board of Education that students will enter prekindergarten, kindergarten, and first grade at the ages prescribed by state regulation. The Board of Education understands that students whose birth dates closely miss the cutoff date for school attendance may have educational needs or demonstrated capabilities that warrant early admission to prekindergarten, kindergarten, or first grade.

1. Prekindergarten is available to income-eligible families as defined by state regulation. Those seeking early entrance into prekindergarten must demonstrate a need for early education, as identified by their readiness levels in developmental areas, warranting admission.
2. Students seeking early entrance to kindergarten must demonstrate capabilities warranting early admission.
3. Students seeking early entrance to first grade must demonstrate capabilities warranting early admission.
4. Decisions regarding early entrance must include consideration of the above without regard to an individual's actual or perceived personal characteristics as defined in Board Policy ACA, *Nondiscrimination, Equity, and Cultural Proficiency*. Institutional factors, such as capacity, may also be considered.

D. IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGIES

1. The superintendent will develop regulations for implementing this policy that will include a screening process for students whose birth dates occur within a six-week period beyond the state's prescribed admission date, as well as procedures for appealing decisions arising out of such screening.
2. All regulations developed in support of Board of Education adopted policies shall be sent to the Board as items of information.

E. REVIEW AND REPORTING

This policy will be reviewed in accordance with the Board policy review process.

Related Source: Code of Maryland Regulation 13A.08.01.02

Policy History: Resolution No. 543-83, June 14, 1983, reformatted in accordance with Resolution No. 333-86, June 12, 1986, and Resolution No. 458-86, August 12, 1986, accepted by Resolution No. 517-86, September 22, 1986; rescinded by Resolution No. 211-04, April 15, 2004; adopted by Resolution 145-06, March 14, 2006; technical amendments by Resolution No. 319-17, June 26, 2017.