

Qualifications of Attendance and Placement

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 or 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:

- 1) Is lawfully and regularly employed, and
- 2) Has permission of a parent; or,
- 3) Is emancipated pursuant to Chapter 13.64 RCW; or,
- 4) Is subject to one of the other exceptions to compulsory attendance.

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 are offered by a public school to full-time students.

Entrance Qualifications

To be admitted to a kindergarten program, a child must have reached his/her fifth (5th) birthday on or before August 31 of that school year. These entry standards are established as a means of assuring optimal levels of success for all students not only in kindergarten settings but throughout their entire span of school years. Exceptions to this standard are to be subjected to careful scrutiny and may be granted for students who have reached their fifth (5th) birthday on or before October 31 of the school year in which they seek entrance. Such exception shall be provided only upon verification that the individual student possesses the intellectual, social, physical and emotional maturity sufficient to maintain a high level of success throughout the kindergarten experience and the years following. These characteristics are to be defined from multiple sources of information, including observations and/or verification of successful preschool experiences, parent interviews and developmental inventories.

The Superintendent and/or designee shall identify processes and instruments considered to provide reliable estimates of skills and abilities.

Early entrance decisions as well as fee assessments shall be subject to appeal. All appeals are to be made in writing and directed to the Superintendent and/or designee who shall be responsible for reviewing the decision(s) and arriving at a final determination.

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.

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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:

- 1) There is available space in the school and program which the student shall attend;
- 2) Tuition is prepaid;
- 3) The student provides his/her own transportation;
- 4) The student resides in the state of Washington; and,
- 5) In the judgment of the Superintendent, no adult education program is available at reasonable cost, and the District's program is appropriate to the needs of the student.

Any resident or nonresident student twenty-one (21) years of age or older, desiring to enroll in the schools of the District, shall make application at the office of the Superintendent. Students twenty-one (21) years of age or older may be admitted only pursuant to an agreement between the student and the Board. Such agreement shall set forth:

- 1) The name, age and grade level of attendance of the student;
- 2) The duration of the agreement;
- 3) A finding that the student will be best accommodated in the programs of the District; and
- 4) Such other terms and conditions as are deemed advisable and as are consistent with the policies of the District, state statute, and state rules and regulations.

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 other 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.

Part-Time, Home-Based or Off-Campus Students

Part-time students are permitted to enroll and receive ancillary services, provided that such students are otherwise eligible for full time enrollment in the school district and such courses or services are not available in the student's private school or an approved extension thereof. Part-time status also includes: any student, not enrolled in a private school, who is receiving home-based instruction and taking courses at, or receiving ancillary services from, the District or both, or any student involved in an approved work training program.

Home-based instruction shall consist of instructional and related educational activities, including the basic skills of occupational education, science, mathematics, language, social studies, history, health, reading, writing, spelling, and the development of an appreciation of art and music. Such instruction shall be equivalent, as liberally construed, to the total annual program hours per grade level as established for public schools.

Home-based instruction may be provided by a parent who has filed a declaration of intent with the Superintendent. Parents may file their declaration of intent with the school district in which they reside or in a school district that has accepted their student pursuant to RCW 28A.225.225, Choice. All decisions relating to philosophy or doctrine, selection of books, teaching materials and curriculum, and

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methods, timing, place and provision for the evaluation of home-based instruction, shall be the responsibility of the parent. Failure of a parent to comply with the standards as specified in the law shall constitute a violation of the compulsory attendance law.

A student may be enrolled in an off-campus instruction program, provided that such experiences have been approved by the Superintendent or designee. The Superintendent is directed to establish procedures that define the District's responsibilities for home-based and off-campus instruction.

Entrance from Home-Based or Private Schooling Programs

Students entering school from home-based schooling instruction, or those private schools not approved by the State Superintendent of Public Instruction, will be placed at the grade level determined by the building principal in consultation with the Superintendent or designee. Such determination will be based upon an evaluation of the student's records and/or other measurements of academic achievement.

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