

**LONDONDERRY SCHOOL DISTRICT
EARLY ENTRANCE POLICY**

Preamble:

The Londonderry School District strives to tailor its educational programs to the specific learning needs of each entering student. The School District will provide each entering learner with an active, resource-rich classroom learning environment which will engage and motivate her/him to think, to solve problems and to apply what is learned. The School District will employ developmental teaching/learning approaches which provide integrated, hands-on learning experiences and which foster language and literacy development, mathematical thinking, scientific questioning, democratic values and participation in the arts.

The Early Entrance Policy of the Londonderry School District must support and be consistent with the District's developmental education philosophy, and it must treat all entering students fairly. To this end, a procedure is provided for waiver of the entrance age requirement to meet individual circumstances which are judged to be appropriate in all areas and in the best interests of an individual child and other children already in the system.

I. Statement of Policy.

A pupil may enter kindergarten if the chronological age will be five on or before September 30 of the year of entering school.

A pupil shall be required to enter grade one if the chronological age will be six on or before September 30 of the year of entering school. See RSA 193:1.

A birth certificate must be presented upon registration as proof of the date of birth.

In-coming transfer students in grades 2-12 inclusive will be initially placed in accordance with the data forwarded by the sending district. Such placement is tentative and subject to reassignment by the Superintendent of Schools or his/her designee, based on the needs of the student and other children in the system.

In-coming transfer students in grade 1 will only be initially admitted to grade 1 if their chronological age was or will be six on or before September 30th of the school year of entering school or if previously in attendance in grade 1 in another community. Such placement is tentative and subject to reassignment by the Superintendent of Schools or his/her designee, based on the needs of the student and other children in the system.

II. Procedure for Requesting a Waiver.

- A. The child must turn five years old during the calendar year for which admittance is requested for kindergarten.
- B. The child must turn six years old during the calendar year for which admittance is requested for grade one.
- C. If a parent or guardian of a child who does not meet the criteria outlined in Section I wishes to seek a waiver of the applicable entrance age, then he or she must notify the Superintendent of Schools in writing by March 1 prior to the school year in question.
- D. Within 10 days of receiving such written notification, the Superintendent of Schools shall provide the parent or guardian with a copy of the procedure for requesting a waiver and a list of information which may be considered by the School Board in making its decision. The charge to the parent(s) for administering the district assessment shall be \$150.00.
- E. By April 1, the parent or guardian shall submit the completed early admissions packet and any written material that he or she wants the Superintendent and the School Board to consider in making its decision.
- F. The School Board shall make every reasonable effort to schedule a hearing no later than June 1 in order to receive oral testimony from the parent or guardian.
- G. The School Board shall issue its written decision within 15 days of hearing evidence.
- H. If the parent or guardian is not satisfied with the decision of the School Board, he or she will have the right to appeal to the New Hampshire State Board of Education pursuant to RSA 193:3.

III. Information which might be considered by the School Board.

The School Board will only grant a waiver of the school entrance age policy in those cases judged to be appropriate in all assessed areas.

A parent or guardian who wishes to request a waiver should be aware that the School Board might consider the following information in reaching its decision:

- A. The school entrance age policy, as stated in Section 1 above;
- B. Any hardship other than space or staffing which may result to the School District if the child is granted a waiver to the school entrance age policy;
- C. Information regarding the child's intellectual abilities;
- D. Information regarding the child's social and emotional development;

- E. Information regarding the child's physical abilities;
- F. Written recommendation(s) of a kindergarten teacher(s), preschool teacher(s), daycare provider(s), or other individuals with specific knowledge of the child's intellectual, social, and physical abilities.
- G. Information regarding the academic and/or social success of children who are admitted to school at a young age;
- H. Evidence of whether the child will be harmed if he or she is not granted a waiver, and evidence of what kind of harm may result.
- I. Any behavioral or developmental issues which the child may face as a result of early admittance to school, and the resources available to help prevent and/or address such issues if they arise.
- J. Options, other than early admission to school, which are available to the child;
- K. Issues relating to the credibility of the evidence presented.

LONDONDERRY SCHOOL BOARD

Adopted: February 23, 1996

Amended: April 13, 1999

Amended: February 6, 2001