



POLICY: QUALIFICATIONS OF ATTENDANCE AND PLACEMENT

A. 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, 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 course and ancillary services which is offered by a public school to full-time students.

B. Entrance Qualifications

Kindergarten: A child must be five (5) years of age as of midnight August 31 of the year of entry to be entitled to enter kindergarten.

First Grade: A child must be six (6) years of age as of midnight August 31 of the year of entry to be entitled to enter first grade.

C. Exceptions for Kindergarten Entrance

Any child not otherwise eligible for entry into kindergarten who has a birth date prior to September 30 may be permitted entry to the district's kindergarten program under the following stipulations:

1. The superintendent shall identify screening processes and instruments that will provide reliable estimates of the skills and abilities of the child. Where feasible, assessment devices shall be used that will permit children who are to be considered for exception to be compared to the level of performance that would be expected of children with a chronological age of five years and six months.
2. Parents requesting an exception shall provide to the district the results of an assessment using the instruments and processes approved by the superintendent and conducted by a licensed or certified psychologist.

The assessment shall be done at the parents' expense through a private agency or through the West Valley School District.

If the parent chooses to use a private agency the district reserves the right to reassess the child at its own cost before granting the exception.

3. At a minimum, eligibility for the exception shall be based upon an analysis of the child's:
 - a. cognitive abilities,
 - b. gross motor skills,
 - c. fine motor skills,
 - d. visual discrimination,
 - e. auditory discrimination,
 - f. emotional/social development, and
 - g. language development.

If a child exceeds the norm of a child with a chronological age of five years and six months in each ability area, the exception shall be granted.

D. Exceptions for First Grade Entrance

Any child not otherwise eligible for entry to first grade who has successfully completed a state approved kindergarten program of 450 or more hours in a public or private school shall be permitted entry to the district's first grade program under the following stipulations:

1. The program standards of the kindergarten attended by the child is substantially equal to or exceeds the applicable basic education programs of the district, and
2. The district shall have the option of placing the child in either kindergarten or first grade for evaluation of his/her level of maturity and attainment of the level of academic skills, and

3. A final determination of the child's appropriate grade level placement will be made no later than the thirtieth calendar day following the child's first day of attendance in first grade of the district.

E. Exemptions

The superintendent shall identify screening processes and instruments that will provide reliable estimates of the skills and abilities of the child. Where feasible, assessment devices shall be used that will permit children who are to be considered for exception to be compared to the level of performance that would be expected with a chronological age of 6 years, 6 months.

F. Verification of Age

Age of a child being presented for entrance to the kindergarten or first grade program of the district shall be confirmed by a birth certificate or other legal document.

G. 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 costs and the district's program is appropriate to the needs of the student.

H. 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.

CROSS REFERENCES:	Board Policy 2080	Comprehensive Student Assessment System
	Board Policy 2121	Student Drug, Chemical, and Alcohol Use/Abuse Program
	Board Policy 2108	Remediation Programs
	Board Policy 3114	Part-time, Home-based, or Off-campus Students
	Board Policy 3121	Compulsory Attendance
	Board Policy 3122	Excused and Unexcused Absences

LEGAL REFERENCES:	RCW 28A.225.010	Attendance mandatory – Age – Person having custody shall cause child to attend public school – When excused
	RCW 28A.225.020	School’s duties upon juvenile’s failure to attend school
	RCW 28A.225.160	Attendance age eligibility
	RCW 28A.225.220	Adults, children from other districts, agreements for attending school – Tuition
	WAC 180-39	Uniform Entry Qualifications
	WAC 392-134-010	Attendance rights of part-time public school students
	WAC 392-137	District policies – Procedure and criteria for release of resident students and admission of nonresident students