

Entry to School

RATIONALE:

The Entry to School Procedure supports implementation of the Board's obligations under the Education Act for compulsory attendance.

TERMINOLOGY:

Compulsory Attendance: Unless excused, every person who attains the age of six years on or before the first school day in September in any year shall attend an elementary or secondary school on every school day from the first school day in September in that year until the person attains the age of 18 years. Every person who attains the age of six years after the first school day in September in any year shall attend an elementary or secondary school on every school day from the first school day in September in the next succeeding year until the last school day in June in the year in which the person attains the age of 18 years.

Kindergarten: Full day learning program for four- and five-year-olds where students have learning opportunities to investigate, problem solve and collaborate as they make sense of the world around them. The Kindergarten program gives children a solid foundation for future learning. Parents may choose to send their children to Kindergarten, and when they turn six years old, they must attend school in September of that year.

Registration: Parent/guardians follow this process of filling out a form and providing their school with the necessary documentation to enroll their child.

PROCEDURES:

1.0 Registration

- 1.1 Children may register to attend school in September of the year in which they turn 4 years (Kindergarten Year 1) or 5 years (Kindergarten Year 2)
- 1.2 If a student turns 6 years on or before the first day of school in September in that year, they must attend school in that school year.
- 1.3 If a student turns 6 years after school has started in September, they are eligible to attend school in that academic year but may delay registration until the following September.
- 1.4 Every student will register for school using the School Registration and Information Form. It may be completed online or in paper copy. Parent/guardians will provide documentation to verify registration. Parent/guardians may request accommodations to

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complete registration, e.g., translation or interpretation services, assistance from school office staff, settlement services.

2.0 Conditions

In the case of 1.4, if a parent/guardian elects for their child to delay registration in school until the following September, the child will continue through the grades year by year, without acceleration or “skipping” a grade.

Example 1:

A child is born between the first day of school and December 31. They may:

- Enter Kindergarten Year 1 in the year they are turning four.
- Enter Kindergarten Year 2 in the year they are turning five.
- Enter Grade 1 in the year they are turning six.

OR the parent/guardian may decide that their child will:

- Enter Kindergarten Year 1 in the year they are turning five.
- Enter Kindergarten Year 2 when they are turning six.
- Enter grade 1 (compulsory attendance) when they are already six (and turning 7 before the end of the calendar year)
- In this case, the student will progress through the rest of the grades normally, without accelerating or “skipping” a grade.

Example 2:

A child is born between January 1 and the first day of school. They may:

- Enter Kindergarten Year 1 in the year they are turning four.
- Enter Kindergarten Year 2 in the year they are turning five.
- Enter Grade 1 (compulsory attendance) in the year they are turning six.

3.0 Responsibilities

- 3.1 Principals will ensure that parent/guardians requesting a delayed registration to grade 1 for their child who is born after the first day of school to December 31 understand the conditions in Section 2.0.
- 3.2 Principals will provide the conditions in writing to the parent/guardian via email or letter.
- 3.3 Upon registration, staff will make a notation in the Student Information System to indicate that the parent/guardian has made this choice.