

## **ADMISSION AGE**

Children admitted to a three-year-old preschool program shall be three years of age on or before September 1 of the academic year. Children enrolled in a four-year-old preschool program shall be four years of age on or before September 1. Students admitted to kindergarten shall be five years of age on or before September 1. Students entering first grade shall be six years of age on or before September 1 of the given school year.

When the school's early childhood program combines preschool with extended child care, children may be admitted throughout the academic year on or after the date of their third birthday. In such cases, parents must acknowledge in writing that their child will remain in the early childhood program and will not be admitted to kindergarten until the child has attained the age of five years on or before September 1 of the given academic year.

Exceptions to age requirements may be made only at the recommendation of the principal with the approval of the Superintendent of Schools.

For children entering school for the first time, age shall be verified through a copy of the official birth certificate. In addition, a baptismal certificate shall be submitted for Catholic students.

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It is expected that the admission ages defined by this policy will be followed. Any exceptions require the prior formal approval of the Superintendent of Schools. No exceptions will be considered without the recommendation of the administrator.

Any request for an exception shall be made in writing to the Superintendent of Schools by the principal. The request shall include:

1. Name of child and parents of the child for whom the exception is being asked.
2. Reasons for exception.
3. Summaries of measures used to determine readiness level.
4. Recommendation of the administrator.

The Superintendent of Schools will consider the judgment of the principal when granting exceptions. Therefore, the administrator retains the major responsibility for determining if a child younger than state regulation and/or diocesan policy allows may enter preschool, kindergarten or first grade in a particular school. Before making a determination, the principal shall consider several facets of readiness: physical maturation including size, speech and motor skills; social maturity including behavior; language development; and mental age level.