

## SCHOOL DISTRICT OF NEW LONDON

### ADMINISTRATIVE GUIDELINE 421 - EARLY ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

- A. **Four-Year-Old Kindergarten** - The parent or guardian who wishes to enter a child younger than four years of age as of September 1 of the year beginning school may apply to the Board of Education through the Director of Pupil Services for early admission to four-year-old kindergarten on or before September 1 of the current school year. Applicants for early admission must meet the standards, conditions and procedures adopted by the Board. The Board will admit students through early admission when it has determined that denial of such request would not be in the students' best interest.
- B. **Five-Year-Old Kindergarten** - The parent or guardian who wishes to enter a child younger than five years of age as of September 1 of the year beginning school may apply to the Board of Education through the Director of Pupil Services for early admission to five-year-old kindergarten on or before September 1 of the current school year. Applicants for early admission must meet the standards, conditions and procedures adopted by the Board. The Board will admit students through early admission when it has determined that denial of such request would not be in the students' best interest.
- C. **First Grade** - Act 41 prohibits a school board from enrolling a child in first grade unless the child has completed five-year-old kindergarten or has received an exemption. If this requirement has been met, the parent or guardian of a child wishes to enter a child younger than six years of age as of September 1 of the year beginning school may apply to the Board of Education through the Director of Pupil Services for early admission to first grade on or before September 1 of the current school year. Applicants for early admission must meet the standards, conditions and procedures and adopted by the Board. The Board will admit students through early admission when it has determined that denial of such request would not be in the best interest of the child.
- D. Parents will be governed by the following procedures:
1. Written application will be made by the parent to the Director of Pupil Services no later than September 1 of the current school year.
  2. The Director of Pupil Services or his/her designee will see that an evaluation is made of the child's readiness. This evaluation will include an assessment of the child's potential to benefit from early admission and to successfully participate in the grade level, including consideration of emotional stability, social and mental maturity, and physical health. These evaluations will be made by a certified School Psychologist and appropriate Teacher in conjunction with other

appropriate pupil service workers and administrative personnel. The evaluation will be at no cost to the parents.

3. The evaluation will be completed not more than six months prior to school entry to ensure programming reflects individual needs.
4. The following qualities will be considered in the assessment:
  - a. Intellectual Potential
    - (1) Social and mental maturity rating should indicate that the youngster has potential for success in a formalized readiness program in the school. At the present time, the best single evidence is a mental maturity level approximately at or above the 98<sup>th</sup> percentile as of September 1 of the current school year to be considered for early admission. In addition, a readiness achievement profile which reflects an overall constant level of performance, rather than extremes in subtest performance, is more likely to indicate potential success.
    - (2) He/she should have language skills approximately at or above the 98<sup>th</sup> percentile in the areas of verbal expression and language comprehension as of September 1 of the current school year to be considered for early admission.
    - (3) He/she should show an interest in school type activities.
  - b. Well Developed Visual-Perceptual and Motor Skills
    - (1) He/she should demonstrate those visual-perceptual and motor skills needed to successfully participate in regular activities of the grade.
    - (2) A child will not be excluded solely on a physical handicap.
  - c. Well Adjusted Socially and Emotionally
    - (2) He/she should be physically ready for a complete school day.
    - (3) He/she should enjoy working and playing with other children of the requested grade.
    - (4) He/she should have a desire to participate in group activities which occur in the requested grade.
    - (5) He/she should be able to remain focused and ready to work independently for short periods of time.

(6) He/she should show the ability to cooperate with others.

5. Parents will be notified of the recommendations with an option for an individual conference.
6. The District's appeal process will be used if the parent is in disagreement. (See Policy/Procedure 870, Public Complaints.)
7. If early admission is granted, a Problem Solving Team will be convened to monitor and address student needs.
8. Early admission, based on the results of the above appraisal, will be considered to be on a trial basis of 6 weeks. After the 6 week trial period, a conference will be scheduled with the parent or guardian, classroom teacher and building principal to review the child's readiness.

ADOPTION DATE: June 9, 2003

REVISION DATE(S): March 10, 2008; May 9, 2011

REVIEW DATE(S): December 6, 2018; December 6, 2023

CROSS-REFERENCE: Policy 421 Early Admission Requirements  
Policy 420 Admission Requirements  
Policy 423 Open Enrollment (Full Time)  
Policy 870 Public Complaints

LEGAL REFERENCE: Section 118.14 Wisconsin Statutes  
Section 120.12(25) Wisconsin Statutes  
Section 120.44 Wisconsin Statutes