

DISTRICT CODE: 550

ENTRANCE AGES

Policy reflects Minnesota statute and aligns with other District 270 policies.

Minnesota Statute requires children to be at least five years of age on September 1 of the school year for which the pupil seeks admission in order to be admitted to kindergarten, but permits school boards to establish a policy for admission of selected pupils at an earlier age.

Recognizing that a limited number of underage children may be ready for or benefit from early school entry, families shall have opportunity to request consideration for entry into or referral to kindergarten children who will turn five before November 1 of the kindergarten year. Since decisions for early entry should be made only after careful deliberation, parents of children who will turn five between September 1 and before November 1 of the kindergarten year must participate in a District-sponsored parent-education/information session in order for their children to be considered for kindergarten entrance. This meeting, which shall be well-publicized and conducted on a timely and convenient schedule, will present information designed to help parents/guardians and Hopkins School District staff to reach decisions about the state of kindergarten readiness of children who are less than five years of age by September 1. Candidates for early entrance to kindergarten must also have completed Pre-school screening and share the results of the screening with the school early entrance review team. An early entrance review team at the school building of attendance shall assist parents/guardians in making this important decision.

In no case will children be admitted to kindergarten later than 10 days after the official start of the school year.

M.S. requires children to be at least six years of age on September 1 of the school year for which they seek admission, or to have completed kindergarten, in order to be admitted to first grade. Admission of children to other grades shall involve a consideration of chronological age, previous school history, and apparent readiness to meet the expectations of those grades.

Adopted: November 3, 1988

Revised: April 6, 1998, June 19, 2003, January 8, 2009, September 17, 2015

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DISTRICT CODE: 550 - REGULATIONS

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The parents of any Hopkins School District child who turns five between September 1 and before November 1 of the kindergarten year may request consideration for early entrance to kindergarten. The procedures to be followed are outlined below.

1. Parent contacts Early Childhood Family Education Coordinator for information.
2. Parent information meeting held in April/early May - letter sent to parents who have expressed interest.

Information included in parent meeting:

- developmental information on five and six year olds
 - information on kindergarten (expectations, curriculum)
 - early entrants research - advantages and disadvantages
 - other options (preschools, activities)
3. Parents provide Pre-school screening information to the school review team.
 4. Parent and child meeting at elementary school-Parents will meet with the principal, challenge teacher, and other appropriate staff (psychologist, ELL teacher, etc.). The child will spend time with a kindergarten teacher participating in kindergarten readiness activities.
 - Parent with principal, challenge teacher and other appropriate staff (psychologist, ELL Teacher, etc.)
 - Child with kindergarten teacher
 5. School review team reaches their decision on a recommendation for or against early admittance. The school review team recommendation will apply to any elementary school in our District.

If a family moves into the district in the summer, informational handouts from the parent session will be shared with the parent. A cross-District team of school staff will meet with parents and the child.

Non-resident families seeking consideration will complete School District Enrollment Options or Agreements Between School Boards procedures prior to engaging in the Hopkins School District 270 Early Entrants Application Procedure. (See ISD 270 Board Policy 509)

HOPKINS PUBLIC SCHOOLS POLICIES