

Winchester Public Schools

The goal of this policy is to assure that all children are developmentally ready for a positive school experience upon entering the Winchester Public Schools.

Policy on Early Admission to First Grade

1. If a student does not meet the age requirement (age 6 by September 1) for admittance to first grade, parents may petition the Winchester Public Schools to request early admission under the following guidelines:
 - The child's birth date must fall on/or between September 1 and December 1 in the birth year for entering first grade class.
 - The request must be submitted in writing no later than April 1st to the principal of the school district in which the child resides. For families who move into Winchester after the deadline, the Principal has the right to waive the April 1st deadline.
 - The child will have successfully completed a public school Kindergarten or an accredited Kindergarten program (NAEYC, AISNE) at the end of the school year.
2. If the three guidelines are met, the child will be evaluated for early admission based on the following criteria:
 - For students currently enrolled in a public Kindergarten program:
 - i. Letter from pediatrician outlining the child's developmental history.
 - ii. School records, including progress reports, child's portfolio, and an evaluation letter from the kindergarten teacher.
 - iii. Observation of the child in the Kindergarten setting by the evaluation team may be required.
 - iv. Early Admission will be granted on a space available basis.
 - For students currently enrolled in a private, accredited Kindergarten program;
 - i. Parent provides evidence of Kindergarten accreditation.
 - ii. Letter from pediatrician outlining the child's developmental history.
 - iii. School records, including progress reports, child's portfolio, and an evaluation letter from the kindergarten teacher.
 - iv. Results of a psychological evaluation (completed at parents' expense)
 - v. Observation of the child in Kindergarten setting by the evaluation team may be required.
 - vi. Early Admission will be granted on a space available basis.

All criteria must be met.

The evaluation team will consist of the School Psychologist, the Building Principal or designee and a kindergarten teacher from the district school. The team will meet to evaluate the information provided by the above listed criteria. The team will consider the information presented, and evaluate the child's preparedness in light of the indicated levels of social, emotional, physical, and intellectual development.

School Committee guidelines for class size will provide the basis for all Early Admission decisions. School assignments for the first grade Early Admission placement will be determined based upon space availability at individual schools.

Following this review, the Principal will meet with the parents to discuss the school's decision. In the event the parents do not agree with the school's decision, they may appeal to the Superintendent, the Superintendent will review the criteria and the decision. His/her decision will be final.

Policy on Early Entrance to Kindergarten

***A student must be five (5) by 9/1/ to attend Kindergarten, There will be no early admission or exceptions to the Kindergarten policy.**