
Qualifications of Attendance and Placement

Purpose

This policy establishes minimum entrance ages and qualifications of students in both the traditional and alternative learning experience programs.

Scope

This policy informs the Superintendent, administrators, staff, students and parents or guardians.

Policy

1. AGE OF ADMISSION

- 1.1. Attending the schools of the district is recognized as a right and responsibility for those who meet the requirements prescribed by law. Every resident of the district who satisfies the minimum entry age requirement and is less than sixteen (16) years of age has the right to attend the district's K-8 schools. Students between fourteen (14) and twenty-one (21) years of age may choose to attend the district's Innovative Cooperative High School or will be referred to a K-12 district of their choice.
- 1.2. Children of age eight (8) or less than age eighteen (18) are required by law to attend a public school, an approved private school or educational center, unless they are receiving approved home-based instruction.
- 1.3. Under certain circumstances, children who are at least sixteen (16) and less than eighteen (18) years of age may be excused from further attendance at school. The Superintendent or designee will exercise his/her authority to grant exceptions when he/she determines that the student:
 - (a) Is lawfully and regularly employed.
 - (b) Has permission of a parent.
 - (c) Is emancipated pursuant to RCW 13.64.
 - (d) Is subject to one of the other exceptions to compulsory attendance.
- 1.4. A resident student who has been granted an exception retains the right to enroll as a part-time student and will be entitled to take any course, receive any ancillary services and take or receive any combination of courses and ancillary services which is offered by a public school to full-time students.

2. ENTRANCE QUALIFICATIONS

2.1. Traditional Classroom Programs

- 2.1.1. A child must be at least five (5) years of age on or before August 31st of the year in order to be admitted to a kindergarten program that commences in the fall of the year. A child must be at least six (6) years of age on or before August 31st of the year or have completed a year of a state approved kindergarten program in order to be admitted to the 1st grade.

- 2.1.2. A parent or guardian (“parents”) may seek an exception to the standard minimum entrance age if he/she believes a child under his/her guardianship who will have reached five (5) years of age by October 31st of the year is ready to start kindergarten or 1st grade.
 - 2.1.2.1. The Superintendent or designee will develop procedures consisting of an interview with the legal guardian(s) and assessment of the child in order to determine whether the child should be admitted. The assessment may include any assessment recognized under RCW 28A-200-010 (1) (c) and WAC 180-52-070.
 - 2.1.2.2. The will of the legal guardian(s) should prevail unless the Superintendent or designee determines that the risk of failure or a negative first experience outweighs the desire of the legal guardian(s). The legal guardian(s) will have the right of appeal to the Board of Directors.

2.2. Alternative Learning Experience Programs

- 2.2.1. A child may be enrolled in an alternative kindergarten program (see Policy 2255-Alternative Learning Experience Programs) on the first enrollment count date following his/her fifth (5th) birthday.
- 2.2.2. A child may be enrolled in an alternative first grade program (see Policy 2255) only for a full academic year commencing in the fall. If a child has not completed a full academic year of kindergarten in an alternative learning experience program, he/she may be admitted to 1st grade in an alternative learning experience program the following fall only if he/she tests at the first grade level or higher in reading, writing, and mathematics on a state recognized standardized achievement test (cf. WAC 180-52-070, RCW 28A-200-010(3), and SBE–Examples of Approved Standardized Achievement Tests for Home-Based Instruction Use).

3. ADMISSION OF STUDENTS AGE TWENTY-ONE OR OLDER

A student age twenty-one (21) or older may enroll in a high school district under the following conditions:

- (a) There is available space in the school and program which the student will attend.
- (b) Tuition is prepaid.
- (c) The student provides his/her own transportation.
- (d) The student resides in the state of Washington.
- (e) In the judgment of the Superintendent or designee, no adult education program is available at reasonable costs and the district’s program is appropriate to the needs of the student.

4. PLACEMENT OF STUDENTS ON ADMISSION

The decision of where to place a student seeking admission to the district rests with the principal or administrator of the school or program to which the parents seek admission for his/her child. However, the principal or administrator must consider the parent's input and serve the wishes of the parents unless he/she determines that such a placement would harm the child emotionally, educationally, or in some other way. The parents will have the right of appeal of admissions decisions first to the principal or administrator with whom they disagree in order to seek compromise and resolution, then to the Superintendent, and finally to the Board of Directors.

Related Procedures

2255P1-Alternative Learning Experience Programs

3122P1-Excused and Unexcused Absences

Policy Cross References

2255-Alternative Learning Experience Programs

3122-Excused and Unexcused Absences

Policy Legal References

RCW 28A.200.010(1)(c) – Home-based instruction–Duties of parents

RCW 28A.225.010 – Attendance mandatory – Age – Exceptions

RCW 28A.225.020 – School's duties upon child's failure to attend school

RCW 28A.225.160 – Qualification for admission to district's schools–Fees for preadmission screening

RCW 28A.225.220 – Adults, children from other district, agreements for attending school— Tuition

WAC 180-52-070 – Approved standardized tests for use by students receiving home-based instruction–Examples–Assistance

WAC 180-335 – Pupils – Uniform Entry Qualifications

WAC 392-121-182 – Alternative learning experience requirements

WAC 392-134-010 – Attendance rights of part-time public school students

WAC 392-137 – Finance — nonresident attendance

Management Resources

State Board of Education – Examples of Approved Standardized Achievement Tests for Home-Based Instruction Use

Policy History

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