

Ages for School Enrollment and Attendance Policy

Kindergarten: A child entering kindergarten must be five years of age or older *on or before September 1st of the year of entrance into kindergarten*. There will be no exceptions.

Grade One: A child entering grade one must be six years of age or older *on or before September 1st of the year of entrance into grade one*. Children who do not meet Canton's grade one age requirement but have successfully completed kindergarten in another public school and then relocated to Canton for grade one will be accepted for grade one placement.

If a child has successfully completed kindergarten in a private school and there are data indicating that the child is ready for first grade and is within three months of our age cutoff for first grade, a parent or guardian may request that the appropriate elementary principal review the child's readiness. This would involve an examination of a portfolio of a child's work as well as a review of the child's social readiness. Upon completion of this review, the principal will make a recommendation to the Superintendent based the child's readiness. If the Superintendent agrees that there is sufficient evidence that the child is ready for first grade, enrollment can proceed. However, if the child is judged not to be ready, the student will only be allowed to enroll in kindergarten. The decision of the Superintendent is final and cannot be appealed.

Maximum Age for School Enrollment/Attendance

The maximum age for enrollment and/or attendance in the Canton Public Schools is age 21.

Ages for Compulsory Attendance

State law requires that all children be enrolled in grade one beginning in September of the calendar year in which they attain the age of six (6) and that they attend school regularly until they reach the age of sixteen (16).

Under MA law, each School Committee must enforce the school attendance of all children of compulsory school age residing in the town.

LEGAL REFS.: M.G.L. 15:1G

Board of Education Regulations for Entrance to First Grade and Kindergarten, adopted 7/20/71

Adopted: May 27, 1998

Revised: March 1, 2018