

Sparta Area School District

Article 410 - Policy for Early Admission to Kindergarten

Any child who becomes five years old on or before September 1, may be enrolled in kindergarten at the beginning of the school year.

Any child who has not yet become five years old on September 1, may apply to the Board of Education through the building principal responsible for their elementary attendance area, for early admission to kindergarten. The criteria for early admission will be based on the child demonstrating a strong potential for success and being able to cope with the school environment intellectually, socially, physically, and emotionally. The application for early admission to kindergarten shall be submitted to the building principal by the parents not later than 30 calendar days before the start of the school year.

The criteria for early admission to kindergarten specify that all prospective pupils who will be between 4 and 5 years of age on or by September 1, must undergo an assessment by a licensed school psychologist or school counselor to determine academic, social and emotional readiness for kindergarten. This assessment will be a standard assessment used to benchmark 5-year olds as they enter kindergarten.

The students who do not meet the testing requirements will no longer be considered for early admittance to kindergarten. All individual assessments will be done by a licensed school psychologist at no cost to the parent. Teacher observations or school psychologist observations will be done at no cost to the parent. The parent of the prospective student may obtain a private assessment at their own expense, but it will be accepted for consideration only if performed by a school psychologist licensed at Level II by the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction.

Based on the assessments, the principal will meet with the parents to discuss his/her recommendation. Supporting evidence for or against early admission shall be submitted to the administration and School Board. Based on the assessment and principal's recommendation, the superintendent shall make a recommendation to the School Board regarding early admission of the student into kindergarten. The parents shall be advised of the School Board meeting at which the decision will be made. Under procedures prescribed by the Wisconsin State Superintendent of Schools, final authority for deciding upon early admission remains with the School Board.

If after a student has been admitted to kindergarten, the teacher notices that the child is not developing appropriately, conferences will be held with the parent within the first nine weeks of school. Withdrawal from kindergarten may be advised and/or required.

In the case of a pupil with English as a second language, appropriate assessment will be worked out in conference with the parents. Criteria equivalent to that described above must be demonstrated. In the case of a handicapped pupil, evaluations will be made on the basis of adaptive behaviors testing consistent with non-biased assessment procedures discussed in PI II, administrative rules for Wisconsin Statutes, Chapter 115.

It is the policy of the Sparta Area School District to comply with all applicable state or federal laws concerning non-discrimination and, therefore, no person may be denied admission to any public

