

## QUALIFICATIONS OF ATTENDANCE AND PLACEMENT

In conformity with WAC 180-39-010 and 180-39-015 the board adopts the following qualifications for school entry.

### A. Age of Admission

Attending the schools of the district shall be 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 21 years of age has the right to attend the district's schools until he/she completes high school graduation requirements. Children of age 8 and less than age 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. Under certain circumstances children who are at least 16 and less than 18 years of age may be excused from further attendance at school. The superintendent shall exercise his/her authority to grant exceptions when he/she determines that the student:

1. Is lawfully and regularly employed, and
2. Has permission of a parent, or,
3. Is emancipated pursuant to Chapter 13.64 RCW; or
4. Is subject to one of the other exceptions to compulsory attendance.

A resident student who has been granted an exception retains the right to enroll as a part-time student and shall 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.

### B. Entrance Qualifications

#### 1. Traditional Classroom Programs

To be admitted to a kindergarten program which commences in the fall of the year a child must be not less than 5 years of age prior to August 31 of that school year. To be admitted to a first grade program which commences in the fall of the year a child must be not less than 6 years of age prior to August 31 of that school year. Any student not otherwise eligible for entry to the first grade who has successfully completed a state-approved kindergarten program of 450 or more hours including instruction in language arts, arithmetic, and reading may be placed in a temporary classroom assignment for the purposes of evaluation prior to making a final determination of the student's appropriate placement. Such determination shall be made no later than the 30<sup>th</sup> calendar day following the student's first day of attendance.

## 2. Alternative Learning Experience Programs

A child may be enrolled in an alternative kindergarten program (see Policy: Alternative Learning Experience Programs) on the first enrollment count date following his or her fifth birthday. A child may be enrolled in an alternative first grade program 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 or she may be admitted to first grade in an alternative learning experience program the following fall only if he or 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).

## C. Admission of Students Aged Twenty-One or Older

A student aged 21 or older may enroll in a school in the district under the following conditions:

1. There is available space in the school and program which the student shall attend;
2. Tuition is prepaid;
3. The student provides his/her own transportation;
4. The student resides in the state of Washington; and
5. In the judgment of the superintendent, no adult education program is available at reasonable costs and the district's program is appropriate to the needs of the student.

## D. Placement of Students on Admission

The decision of where to place a student seeking admission to the district rests with the principal. Generally students meeting the age of admission requirements or transferring from a public or approved private school shall be placed in kindergarten or first grade, or the grade from which they transferred. The principal shall evaluate the educational record and assessments of all other students to determine their appropriate placement. A temporary classroom assignment may be made for no more than thirty calendar days for the purpose of evaluation prior to making the final placement decision.

### Cross References:

Board Policy 2108  
Board Policy 2140  
Board Policy 3114

Remediation Programs  
Guidance and Counseling  
Part-time, Home-Based, or Off-Campus  
Students

Board Policy 3121  
Board Policy 3122  
Board Policy 4220

Compulsory Attendance  
Excused and Unexcused Absences  
Complaints Concerning Staff or Programs

Legal References:

RCW 28A.225.010

Attendance mandatory — Age — Person having custody shall cause child to attend public school — When excused

RCW 28A.225.020

School's duties upon juvenile'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 districts, agreements for attending school — Tuition

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

WAC 392-335

Uniform Entry Qualifications

State Board of Education

Examples of Approved Standardized Achievement Tests for Home-Based Instruction Use

Management Resource:

*Policy News*, April 2006

Entrance to School Policy Changes

*Policy News*, August 1999

Districts may set K-screening fees