

SCHOOL DISTRICT OF JOHNSON CREEK BOARD OF EDUCATION POLICY	POLICY: 421
---	-------------

Entrance Ages for Kindergarten/First Grade

All children residing in the Johnson Creek School District shall be admitted to school in accordance with relevant statutes of the State of Wisconsin. Therefore, children who meet the age requirements shall be enrolled in kindergarten and/or first grade at the beginning of the school year. Kindergartners shall be registered and screened during the spring semester, and enrollment shall be completed by the third week in August.

A. **Age of Children:** Following are the age requirements for children wishing to be admitted to kindergarten or to first grade as established by 118.14(1) Wis. Stats.—

1. Four-Year-Old Kindergarten: No child may be admitted to four-year-old kindergarten unless he/she is four (4) years old on or before September 1 in the year he/she proposes to enter school.
2. Kindergarten: No child may be admitted to five-year-old kindergarten unless he/she is five (5) years old on or before September 1 in the year he/she proposes to enter school.
3. First Grade: No child may be admitted to the 1st grade unless he/she is six (6) years old on or before September 1 in the year he/she proposes to enter school. No child may be admitted to the 1st grade unless the child has completed a 5 year old kindergarten program or has received an exemption per State statute 118.33(6)(cm).

B. **Early Admission to Four-Year-Old Kindergarten, Kindergarten or First Grade:** The following procedures as permitted by authorization of the State Superintendent of Public Instruction shall apply to those students who do not meet the statutory requirements for admission to 4K, kindergarten or first grade —

1. Formal Application: Application shall be made in writing by the parent/guardian to the district administrator requesting admission to 4K, kindergarten or first grade.
2. Personal Interview: An interview shall be held to determine the parent's/guardian's reason(s) for requesting entrance to 4K, kindergarten or first grade prior to the statutory age. The district administrator shall include the elementary principal in the interview and any other personnel deemed appropriate.
3. Child Evaluation: An evaluation of the child's potential to benefit from early admission shall be required. This evaluation shall consider emotional stability, social and mental maturity, and physical health.

The evaluation of the child shall be conducted by the school psychologist in conjunction with other members of the pupil services staff. The parent/guardian is responsible for arranging and paying the cost of a physical examination by a certified health-care professional. Other services rendered by school personnel shall be at no cost to the parent/guardian.

4. Post-Evaluation Conference: After the evaluation described above has been completed, a conference shall be held with the parent/guardian to consider the appropriateness of the child's early admittance to 4K, kindergarten or first grade. A final report including recommendations from the evaluation team shall be made available to the Board of Education.
5. Final Authority: The Johnson Creek Board of Education shall exercise the final authority for deciding whether or not a child is to gain early admittance to 4K, kindergarten or first grade in accordance with the procedures as outlined in this section of the policy and the conditions and standards which follow.

C. Conditions and Standards to be Utilized in Determining Early Admission to 4K or Kindergarten: Pursuant to authority vested in the State Superintendent of Public Instruction as per 115.28(8) Wis. Stats., the following conditions and standards will be utilized by the Board of Education in determining whether a child may gain early admittance to 4K or kindergarten —

1. The child is superior in the full range of abilities and needs including social, emotional, mental and physical maturity, or
2. The child has been evaluated by a IEP team and is determined not to have an exceptional education need (EEN) but would benefit from an early intervention program, or
3. The child successfully completed a four-year-old public school kindergarten program the previous school year for admission to kindergarten.

D. Conditions and Standards to be Utilized in Determining Early Admission to First Grade: Pursuant to authority vested in the State Superintendent of Public Instruction as per 115.28(8) Wis. Stats., the following conditions and standards shall be utilized by the Board of Education in determining whether a child may gain early admittance to first grade –

1. The child was admitted to and successfully completed kindergarten under the authority of 115.28(8) Wis. Stats., or
2. The child successfully completed a program for five-year-old children which school district authorities deems equivalent to the District's kindergarten program, or
3. The child does not meet the foregoing requirements of (1) and (2) of this section but as a result of the evaluation described in Section B of this policy is considered to be capable

of achieving success in a first-grade program and to be best served by placement in a first-grade program.

Adopted: 1979
Revised: 1/14/91
Reviewed: 10/8/97
Revised: 7/5/04
Revised: 9/15/08
1st Reading: 8/5/10
2nd Reading: 8/16/10
Revised: 8/16/10
Revised: 5/16/16
Reviewed: 5/10/21