

1 **Board Policies**

**Blair-Taylor School District**

2  
3 **Series: 400**  
4 **Section: 420**  
5 **Policy #: 421**

**STUDENTS**  
**SCHOOL ADMISSIONS**  
**ADMISSION AGES and 1<sup>st</sup> GRADE ADMISSIONS**

6  
7 -----  
8  
9 **AGE OF ADMISSION**

- 10  
11 a. No child may be admitted to 4 year-old kindergarten unless he or she is 4 years old on or before  
12 September 1 in the year that he or she proposes to enter school.  
13  
14 b. No child may be admitted to 5 year-old kindergarten unless he or she is 5 years old on or before  
15 September 1 in the year he or she proposes to enter school.  
16  
17 c. No child may be admitted to 1<sup>st</sup> grade unless he or she is 6 years old on or before September 1 in  
18 the year he or she proposes to enter school.  
19  
20

21 **FIRST GRADE ADMISSION TO SCHOOL**

22  
23 In order to be admitted to first grade in the District, a child must be at least six years of age by September  
24 1 of the year he/she proposes to enter first grade and have successfully completed 5-year-old  
25 kindergarten.

26  
27 Admission to first grade under the age of six may be permitted if: (1) the child has successfully completed  
28 a 5-year-old kindergarten program or its equivalent, or (2) the child demonstrates the academic and  
29 developmental readiness skills expected for successful participation in first grade. Evidence must exist  
30 that the child's educational welfare would best be served by placement in first grade.

31  
32 A child who is six years of age on or before September 1 of the year he/she proposes to enter first grade  
33 but has not completed 5-year-old kindergarten may be admitted to first grade if the child meets any of the  
34 following requirements:

- 35  
36 1. The child has successfully completed an educational program for five-year-old children in a  
37 private school or licensed day care center that the school district deems equivalent to public  
38 school 5-year-old kindergarten. Documentation of program completion shall be required.  
39 2. The child demonstrates academic and developmental readiness skills expected for  
40 successful participation in first grade. Evidence must exist that the child's educational  
41 welfare would best be served by placement in first grade.  
42 3. Before either commencing or completing first grade, the child moved into Wisconsin from a  
43 state, country or territory in which completion of 5-year-old kindergarten is not a prerequisite  
44 to entering first grade.  
45 4. Before either commencing or completing first grade, the child moved into Wisconsin from a  
46 state, country or territory in which completion of 5-year-old kindergarten is a prerequisite to  
47 entering first grade and the child was exempted from the requirement to complete 5-year-old  
48 kindergarten in the state, country or territory from which the child moved.  
49

50 The decision to grant admission to first grade before the legal entrance age and/or without completion of  
51 5-year-old kindergarten shall be made by the superintendent. The superintendent may consult with the  
52 building principals, staff and the board as appropriate when making this decision.  
53

54 If first grade admission is denied under this policy, the child's parent or guardian may appeal the  
55 superintendent's decision. The superintendent shall meet with the child's parent or guardian to discuss

56 the first grade admission request, review relevant student data related to the request, and then make a  
57 decision regarding the child's first grade admission. The superintendent's decision regarding the request  
58 shall be final.  
59

60 A child who is of compulsory attendance age (six years old), who has not completed five-year-old  
61 kindergarten, and who has not been granted an exemption to the mandatory kindergarten completion  
62 requirement shall be placed in 5-year-old kindergarten in the District or be expected to meet compulsory  
63 attendance requirements through other means authorized by state law.  
64

65  
66 **PROCEDURES FOR ADMISSION TO FIRST GRADE EARLY AND/OR WITHOUT HAVING**  
67 **ATTENDED KINDERGARTEN**  
68

69 **A. Conditions and Standards for Admission Under the Legal Age**

70 A child who is not six years old on or before September 1 in the year he/she seeks admission  
71 to first grade may be admitted to first grade if he/she meets either of the following  
72 requirements:  
73

- 74 1. The child has successfully completed a 5-year-old kindergarten program or its equivalent,  
75 or  
76
- 77 2. The child demonstrates the academic and developmental readiness skills expected for  
78 successful participation in first grade. Evidence must exist that the child's educational  
79 welfare would best be served by placement in first grade.  
80

81 **B. Conditions and Standards for Exemption from Kindergarten Completion Requirement**

82 A child who has not completed 5-year old kindergarten may be admitted to first grade if  
83 he/she meets any of the following requirements:  
84

- 85 1. The child has successfully completed a program for 5-year old children that the school  
86 district deems equivalent to kindergarten. Documentation of program completion shall be  
87 required.  
88
- 89 2. The child demonstrates academic and developmental readiness skills expected for  
90 successful participation in first grade. Evidence must exist that the child's educational  
91 welfare would best be served by placement in first grade.  
92
- 93 3. Before either commencing or completing first grade, the child moved into Wisconsin from  
94 a state, country or territory in which completion of 5-year old kindergarten is a  
95 prerequisite to entering first grade and the child was exempted from the requirement to  
96 complete 5-year old kindergarten in the state, country or territory from which the child  
97 moved.  
98

99  
100 **C. Procedures**

101 Requests for early admission to first grade or exemption from the mandatory kindergarten  
102 completion requirement shall be made and acted upon in accordance with the following  
103 procedures:  
104

- 105 1. Requests shall be submitted to the elementary school principal in writing by September 1  
106 for the upcoming school year. The request shall include the rationale for making the  
107 request and any academic or other information that supports the child's readiness for first  
108 grade admission.  
109

110 Families moving into the District after September 1 shall submit a request to the building  
111 principal.

112  
113  
114  
115  
116  
117  
118  
119  
120  
121  
122  
123  
124  
125  
126  
127  
128  
129  
130  
131  
132  
133  
134  
135  
136  
137  
138  
139  
  
140  
141  
142  
143  
144  
145  
146  
147  
148  
149  
150  
151  
152  
153  
154  
155  
156  
157  
158  
159  
160  
161  
162  
163  
164  
165

2. The principal shall meet with the child's parent/guardian to discuss the reasons for requesting the child's first grade admission early and/or without having completed kindergarten and to review related student record information. The principal will share and discuss this information with the superintendent.
  
3. The principal shall determine whether any additional information or evaluation is needed. If needed, the superintendent shall request parental permission for evaluating the child and appoint appropriate staff members to complete the evaluation. The evaluation process will concentrate on obtaining information regarding skills and behavioral characteristics that are correlated with success in first grade. The areas evaluated may include: cognitive or intellectual development; math, reading and writing skill development; adaptive skill development; social/emotional maturity; communication skills and sensory motor/physical development. Staff shall use a combination of behavioral observation and teacher-made assessment tools to assess developmental and skill levels of the child.  

The staff members completing the evaluation shall meet with the superintendent to analyze the results of the evaluation and any other data available to determine the appropriateness of the child's admission to first grade. In order to be admitted to first grade, the child must demonstrate the academic and developmental readiness skills expected for successful participation in first grade and there must be evidence that the child's educational welfare will best be served by first grade placement.
  
4. The principal shall meet with the child's parent or guardian to present the results of the evaluation and the recommendation regarding admission to first grade. A written decision regarding the request will be provided to the parent or guardian and a copy kept on file in the District.
  - a. If the request is approved, the principal shall inform the parent or guardian that the first grade placement shall be contingent on the child's successful adjustment to the school setting and satisfactory progress. The placement shall be reviewed within 30 days of admission. The decision to continue or change the placement shall be made by the classroom teacher, principal and student services personnel as necessary. The decision will be communicated to the child's parent or guardian once it is made.
  - b. If the request is denied, the principal shall inform the parent or guardian of their opportunity to appeal the superintendent. The appeal must be made in writing to the superintendent within 10 days of receipt of the principal's decision. The decision of the superintendent shall be final.

-----

**LEGAL REFERENCE: 118.14, 115.28(8), 120.12 (25) Wis. Stats.**

<b>First Reading:</b> 7/8/91	<b>Amended:</b>	<b>Adopted:</b> 7/15/91
	<b>Amended:</b>	<b>Adopted:</b> 4/16/07
	<b>Amended:</b>	<b>Adopted:</b> 6-15-09
	<b>Amended:</b>	<b>Adopted:</b> 2-21-11

**Clerk:** \_\_\_\_\_