

Age of Admission

1. Kindergarten

A child at kindergarten entrance in the Yakima School District must be documented as five (5) years of age on or before midnight August 31 of the entry year in order to be admitted to kindergarten. Official, permanent school records shall reflect the student's legal name, including first name, middle name(s) or middle initial(s), and last name. At kindergarten enrollment, parent(s)/guardian(s) must supply documentation of age and legal name of the student through birth certificates, hospital certificates, passports, or court documents.

Consistent with board policy, it is in the best interest of the child, not only at kindergarten age, but also as one looks ahead to the entire span of the student's school life to be of appropriate age for grade level schooling. It is especially important that both the home and the school look ahead, particularly to the student's adolescent years in regard to physical and social development, as well as to the student's educational development.

2. First Grade

Children will be accepted into first grade who meet one (1) of the following criteria:

- 2.1 reaching the documented age of six (6) years on or before midnight August 31 of the school year they enter;
- 2.2 completing a successful year in kindergarten in the Yakima School District; or
- 2.3 having completed a successful year of kindergarten in another school district.

Youngsters enrolling without a kindergarten experience must submit proof of birth date.

Any student not otherwise eligible for entry to the first (1st) grade who has successfully completed a kindergarten program of four hundred fifty (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 30th calendar day following the student's first (1st) day of attendance.

Both the school and home recognize that children grow and develop at different rates. In a few rare instances, it may prove to be detrimental to the child's total development to delay the child's entry one (1) year due to the September 1 entrance date. In these cases it will be necessary for the parent to present compelling evidence to this effect to the director of elementary education in the teaching and learning department.

3. Middle School

Residence within the district and promotion from the fifth (5th) grade of an approved elementary school entitles pupils to admission to middle school.

4. High School

Residence in the district and promotion from an approved middle school or from the eighth (8th) grade of any district maintaining schools of acceptable quality shall entitle pupils to admission to high school.

5. Admission from Other Districts

Pupils transferring from schools other than the Yakima School District shall be admitted to the grade for which their previous work, as certified by the principal of the school from which they have come, appears to prepare them. They may be given placement tests, if in the opinion of the principal such tests are warranted. Their retention in such grade thereafter depends altogether upon the judgment of the teacher and principal as to their ability and needs. They shall pursue all studies of that grade unless excused by the principal.

6. Age Appropriateness

Consideration must be given to age appropriateness of placement. In cases where students have had multiple retentions, or in cases where students have transferred to the Yakima School District from limited English proficiency programs, it is critical to have the appropriate age placement for the student in the high school sequence. Eighth (8th) grade students, therefore, should be transferred to the high school so that as a ninth (9th) grader, the student is not older than seventeen (17), so that the student has a legitimate prospect of graduation before age twenty-one (21).

Cross References:

(cf.: 2410 – High School Graduation Requirements)

(cf.: 2420 – Grading and Progress Reports)

(cf.: 3600 – Student Records)

Adoption Date:

961022

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090518