

## 5112 ENTRANCE AGE

The Board of Education will admit to this district children otherwise eligible by law or Board policy who have attained the age requirements set by law and this Board of Education. The Board requires documentary verification of the age and birth date of any child for whom admission to this district is sought.

### Preschool Disabled

A child is eligible for entrance into a program of special education who has attained his/her third birthday and has been found by the Child Study Team to be eligible for a program for the preschool disabled in accordance with rules of the State Board of Education.

### General Education Preschool

A child is eligible for entrance into the general education preschool who will have attained the age of three years on or before October 1, of the year in which entrance is sought. All general education preschool children must be toilet trained.

No child will be admitted to preschool who has not met the age requirement set by this policy.

### Kindergarten

A child is eligible for entrance into Kindergarten who will have attained the age of five years on or before October 1, of the year in which entrance is sought.

No child will be admitted to Kindergarten who has not met the age requirement set by this policy. All general education Kindergarten children must be toilet trained.

### First Grade

A child is eligible for entrance into first grade who will have attained the age of six years on or before October 1 of the year in which entrance is sought and has completed the Kindergarten program of this district or an equivalent program elsewhere and has been recommended by the school district staff for advancement to the first grade.

If a child does not attain the age of six years by September 30th of the first grade year, but has completed an approved Kindergarten program, parents or guardians may

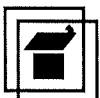


make a written request to the principal that their child be considered for admission to first grade. Current residents must make this request by April 1 preceding September admission. Families who move into the district after April 1 must make this written request to the principal upon registering their child for school. Upon receiving this request, a certified member of the district staff will conduct an assessment that includes but is not limited to an interview with the parent and child and a consultation with the sending school's staff. A committee made up of the principal, guidance counselor, and a first grade teacher will review the results of the assessment relative to the district curriculum and best practices research and will inform parents in writing as soon as possible after the completion of the assessment process. Parents will be counseled as to the possible short-term and long-term social, emotional, and academic consequences of early entrance and will be advised to carefully consider educational research and administrative experience when making the decision to send a child to school early. If the committee decides to place the child in first grade, and the parents agree, the first six weeks will be a probationary period. If, after the first six weeks, the child does not make satisfactory progress, the child will be placed in Kindergarten.

If parents do not agree with the committee's recommendation, they may appeal the decision in writing to the Superintendent of Schools within ten working days of the committee's notification to parents. After the Superintendent has reviewed the request and the committee's findings, parents will receive written notification of his/her decision. The decision of the Superintendent will be final.

N.J.S.A. 18A:36-19; 18A:38-5; 18A:38-6; 18A:44-1;  
18A:44-2; 18A:46-6; 18A:46-6.1  
N.J.A.C. 6A:14-3.3

Adopted: 24 January 2006  
Revised: 24 April 2007  
Revised: 11 December 2012  
Revised: 20 August 2013  
Revised: 12 December 2023



### 5112.1 PRESCHOOL PROGRAM

The Board of Education believes that preschool educational experiences contribute to later academic success for all children. Therefore, within the limits of the budget and as required by law, the Superintendent shall recommend to the Board for approval programs designed for district children who have attained the age of 3 years on or before October 1 of the year children are to enroll. Programs shall address the needs of children who have been identified as requiring special education, as well as of those who have not been so identified.

The Superintendent shall direct development of approved preschool programs. He/she shall ensure adherence to all applicable laws and regulations in pursuing funding at the Federal and State levels, as well as from private sources.

Implementing procedures shall address the following:

- A. The preschool program shall adhere to N.J.A.C 13A, Elements of High-Quality Preschool Programs and other requirements set forth in the Preschool Education Aid (PEA) application.
- B. The preschool curriculum shall consist of a state-approved developmentally appropriate experiences that provide each child with individual opportunities to develop positive self-esteem, social/emotional growth, language skills, motor development and conceptual skill development.
- C. All preschool programs sponsored by this Board shall be consistent with the overall philosophy of the school district and aligned with the New Jersey Preschool Teaching and Learning Standards and a state-approved curricular program. They shall be coordinated with other relevant district programs such as special education and Title I and articulated with the K-12 curriculum.
- D. Each preschool classroom shall be assigned at least one certificated teacher with required training as described in administrative code. Class sizes shall not exceed limits defined in the code.



- E. Proof of immunizations against communicable diseases and examinations shall be in accord with preschool guidelines and N.J.A.C. 8:57-4.19.
- F. Programs shall be designed to include parents/guardians as active participants and provide them with meaningful opportunities to be involved in the educational experiences of their children.
- G. Preschool classes may serve as laboratories for training teachers in cooperative agreements with colleges or universities.
- H. Opportunities may be provided for high school students to participate in laboratory experiences to enhance their understanding of child development and preschool curricula in the interest of future child rearing and for exploration of careers in early childhood education.

### Enrollment Procedures for Preschool

The general education preschool program for typically developing children will enroll age-eligible students in conformity with the Entrance Age policy no. 5112.

The district will enroll age-eligible students using a lottery-based system until such time the district is able to serve all age-eligible general education students. Eligible preschool students with disabilities will be admitted into an appropriate program based on their Individualized Education Plan (IEP) and will not be subject to the lottery.

General education admission seats will be made available in accordance with the district's Preschool Education Aid (PEA) application and award. These seats are subject to variability based on each year's funding award.

The lottery will be conducted by the Superintendent or designee and if the selection of students exceeds the number of seats available for typically developing children so that any typically developing students not selected into the program through the lottery process will be kept on await list based on their lottery position for possible future selection into the Program. Those resident students on the



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Preschool Program

waiting list will be called as openings in the Preschool Program occur in the order in which they have been placed on the waiting list.

The district may develop a priority order when it comes to enrolling students in the general education preschool program. Priority student profiles may include:

- Students who are eligible for free or reduced lunch;
- Students who are currently enrolled in a preschool program at a school or approved private provider location;
- Students who will attain the age of 4 years on or before October 1<sup>st</sup>.

### School Assignment

Consistent with policy nos. 5120 and 8110 the assignment of students in attendance areas is the discretion of the Superintendent or designee. Preschool attendance areas may differ considering the use of private providers.

The district administration will make every effort to gather parent input and preference of school assignment for their children. However, the district administration will make all final placement decisions to balance class sizes and achieve transportation routes to best serve children.

When considering the assignment of students, the district may use the following considerations:

- Parent preference
- Seat availability
- Sibling enrollment
- Special services needed
- Transportation route/distance from home to school

### Preschool Attendance

Developing good attendance habits now sets a precedent for later school years. Parents shall make every effort to have children to school on time every day the child is healthy. A preschool day is considered at least six hours consistent with the PEA application and best practices. Children who are tardy or absent unnecessarily miss out on important activities and have their routines disrupted. Communication with school staff is essential to ensure that unique situations are addressed.



### Removal from the Preschool Program

The district will make every effort to communicate with parents when questions about student absences or tardiness become problematic or disruptive to the educational program. When a lottery system is used and a wait list maintained, the district may consider removal from the preschool program.

1. A typically developing child in the program may be dropped from the program if regular attendance cannot be established or unexcused absences, consistent with policy no 5200, exceed twenty (20) cumulative days in one school year.
  - a. This will allow for a child on the waiting list to be given the opportunity to be admitted into the program.
  - b. Families will be given every opportunity to establish or reestablish regular attendance, and may be dropped from the roster only when they are unwilling or unable to do so.
2. Efforts will be made by Preschool staff to reach out to parents about the importance of regular school attendance and discuss possible interventions prior to dropping students from the program.
3. Typically developing students five (5) years old and under with truant matters cannot be taken to court; however, typically developing students aged five (5) and under with truant matters can be removed from the program. Removing a typically developing student from the program is not expulsion or punitive.

All other matters regarding preschool attendance shall be administered according to policy no. 5200 – Attendance.

Adopted: December 12, 2023

N.J.A.C. 8:57-4.19  
Preschool Education Aid (PEA)

