

QUALIFICATION OF ATTENDANCE AND PLACEMENT

Entrance Qualifications for Kindergarten Program

Pursuant to WAC 392-335-010, Mount Vernon School District establishes the following procedure for early entrance of kindergarten pupils. Early admittance will be considered for children born after September 1st of the desired year of entry. This allows children who have the ability or need, or both, to enter kindergarten or first grade prior to the uniform age of entry. Where feasible, assessment devices will be used that will permit students who are to be considered for exemption to be compared to the level of performance that would be expected of children with a chronological age of 5 years for kindergarten and 6 years for the first grade in each of the areas of ability.

Application/Assessment Process

1. Applications for early entrance for children living within the Mount Vernon School District will be accepted through January 1st of the desired entry year. Application must be made at least 30 business days prior to the first day of scheduled instruction for the desired program. Application packets can be obtained from the district website or at the district office. Complete applications must include:
 - Proof of age and Mount Vernon School District residency.
 - The application for early entrance to kindergarten form, which will include permission to evaluate.
 - A developmental questionnaire to be completed by the parent/guardian regarding the child.
 - A preschool questionnaire to be completed by the preschool teacher if the child has had a prior preschool experience.
 - Other relevant information to assist the Early Entrance to Kindergarten Team in determining a child's developmental level.
2. An early entrance assessment is required. The assessment will include but may not be limited to, seven areas: (1) mental ability, (2) gross-motor skills, (3) fine-motor skills, (4) visual discrimination, (5) auditory discrimination, (6) social/emotional development, and (7) language development.

The district reserves the right to annually establish a fee to pay for the cost of the assessments noted above.

3. Parents for whom the cost of an assessment would cause undue hardship may request exemption or reduction from fees. These requests will be considered on the basis of submission of a "Free and Reduced Meals" application and qualifying for

free or reduced meals.

4. Parents must contact the Teaching & Learning Department to make an appointment for the assessment.
5. The assessment is conducted by the Early Entrance to Kindergarten Team. The assessment team will include a school psychologist, a kindergarten teacher, and at least one additional member of a multidisciplinary team.
6. The Early Entrance to Kindergarten team will review the application and assessment results and come to a decision regarding a child's need and/or ability to enter kindergarten early. All areas of the screening criteria will be considered in the recommendation from the Early Entrance to Kindergarten Team. A decision will be mailed within 10 working days of testing.
7. Students who complete the early entrance to kindergarten process for the purpose of engaging in the Transitional Kindergarten program will continue in Kindergarten the following school year.

Students who complete the early entrance to kindergarten process for the purpose of completing one full year of kindergarten and continuing to first grade the following school year, if early entry is approved, will be placed by the local school principal along with any other entering student.

8. The teacher and principal will observe the student throughout a trial period of up to eight weeks. If after that period, it is determined that early placement was not appropriate the student may be withdrawn from the program after a conference with the parent.

Appeal Process

Appeal of a removal decision may be made to the Assistant Superintendent. The appeal must be submitted in writing within 10 days of receipt of notification of removal. The student's placement will be "hold in place" pending final decision of the Assistant Superintendent.

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 program which the student will 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.

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.