

09.121 - Entrance Age

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Preschool

In accordance with appropriate state and federal legal requirements, any child who has been identified as disabled, and who is three (3) or four (4) years of age, by August 1 of the current year, shall be eligible for a free and appropriate preschool education and related services.

Children at risk of educational failure who are four (4) by August 1 may enter preschool. All other four (4) year old children shall be served to the extent placements are available.¹

Primary School

Any child who is five (5) years of age or who may become five (5) years of age by October 1 may enter a primary school program and may advance through the program without regard to age in accordance with [KRS 158.030](#). Any child who is six (6) years of age or who may become six (6) years of age by October 1 shall attend school or qualify for an exemption as provided by [KRS 159.030](#).³

The District shall establish guidelines to determine a student's level of academic and social skills when that student is being considered for advancement through the primary program. A student who is at least five (5) years of age, but less than six (6) years of age on or before October 1, may be enrolled in the second level of the primary program in keeping with the process set out in Kentucky Administrative Regulation.⁵

Beginning with the 2017-2018 school year, the following provisions shall apply:

- A child who becomes five (5) by August 1 may enter primary school and may advance through the primary program without regard to age in accordance with [KRS 158.031](#). A child who becomes six (6) by August 1 shall attend public school unless s/he qualifies for an exemption as provided by law.
- A child who is six (6) years of age, or who may become six (6) years of age by August 1, shall attend public school or qualify for an exemption as provided by [KRS 159.030](#).²

Petition Process

Parents/guardians may petition the Board to allow their child to enter school earlier than permitted under statutory age requirements. On receipt of a petition, the District shall conduct an evaluation process to help determine a student's readiness to engage in and benefit from early entry to school. The process shall be established in accordance with the following:

1. The District shall establish guidelines to determine a student's readiness for entry, including the date by which petitions must be submitted to the Department of Pupil Personnel.
2. Developmentally appropriate measures, which may include state-approved screening instruments, shall be used to determine a student's level of developmental, academic and social readiness.
3. Based on staff recommendations, the Superintendent shall recommend to the Board whether to grant the request.²

~~4. Parents may petition for early entrance to kindergarten with the understanding that full tuition will be paid by the parent/guardian.~~

~~Considerations may include availability of space and funding.~~

Proof of Age

Upon enrollment for the first time in any elementary or secondary school, a student or student's parent shall provide:

- A certified copy of the student's birth certificate, or
- Other reliable proof of the student's identity and age with an affidavit explaining the inability to produce a copy of the birth certificate.⁴

References:

¹[KRS 157.3175](#); 2014 Budget Bill

²[KRS 158.030](#)

³[KRS 159.030](#)

⁴[KRS 158.032](#)

⁵[KRS 158.031](#); [702 KAR 7:125](#)

[KRS 158.990](#)

[KRS 159.010](#)

[704 KAR 5:070](#)

[OAG 82-408](#); [OAG 85-55](#)

Related Policies:

08.22

09.126 (re requirements/exceptions for students from military families)