

Entrance Requirements

Early Entrance Kindergarten

There are limited reasons for the admission of students who have not reached the age of five by midnight of August 31st. Kindergarten children entering the District during the school year who turn five after August 31st may be enrolled in kindergarten on a provisional basis if the child has been performing in a satisfactory manner in some other public or Superintendent of Public Instruction or district approved private school kindergarten program. Final determination will be made no later than thirty (30) calendar days after the child's first day of attendance.

1. Gifted
 - A. For children who don't meet the age requirements listed above, the initial early entrance request will be made by the parent to the Assistant Superintendent's office or designee.
 - B. There will be an application process, which will include permission by the parents to evaluate. The evaluation will assess the child's social, emotional and intellectual readiness using appropriate procedures.
 - C. The District will identify an assessment team which will make one of the three determinations:
 - i. The child is ready and should enter kindergarten
 - ii. The child is not ready and should wait a year.
 - D. Members of the team will discuss results of the early entrance testing with the parents/guardians.
2. Promise K

Promise K is an early entrance kindergarten program aimed at helping children build social and basic academic skills so they can transition to a school setting and be successful in the classroom. Enrollment into the Promise K program is subject to space availability. Contributing factors for enrolling students in the program include:

 - Turn five after August 31st
 - Very limited or no preschool experience
 - Applied for Head Start, ECEAP or Community Preschool but was not accepted/enrolled
 - Limited social opportunities

Early Entrance to First Grade

1. Children who are six years old after August 31, and on or before December 1, may be admitted to the first grade if:
 - A. The child has successfully completed a year of kindergarten work in a public or SPI or district approved private kindergarten program.
 - B. The child has performed satisfactorily in the first grade of a public or SPI or district approved private school system.

2. When progress in kindergarten indicates the child may be only marginally successful in first grade, the district maintains the option of placing the child in the first grade for evaluation. A final determination must be made no later than thirty (30) calendar days following the child's first day of attendance.

Entrance to First Grade from Private School

1. Students who successfully complete kindergarten programs offered by private schools that operate any or all of grades 1 through 12 and meet all requirements established by the State Board of Education are approved for admittance to first grade.

2. Students who successfully completed kindergarten programs offered by private school that have been reviewed by the district and meet district requirements are also approved for admittance to first grade. Private kindergarten programs must meet or exceed the following:
 - A. The kindergarten program prepares students for entry into first grade.
 - B. Students receive a minimum of 450 hours of instruction in reading, arithmetic, and language skills.
 - C. Students attend 180 days or the equivalent during the school year.
 - D. Student records which indicate readiness of the child to complete first grade work are available to the district.
 - E. Teacher(s) hold appropriate Washington state teaching certification.
 - F. Teacher(s) hold appropriate health certification.

Entrance to Other Grades

Children who have attended schools in other districts will be accepted for initial entrance in the grade or level to which their transfer certificate, report card, or transcript assigns them.

Assignment to grade level of students shall involve a consideration of the child's chronological age and a determination of the grade level readiness of the youngster to accomplish the work. Readiness will be assessed using appropriate procedures.

Entrance of Students from Drop-out Prevention Programs

Grade level classification for students entering the district from drop-out prevention programs such as those operated by the Opportunities Industrialization Center (OIC) shall be determined by the student's chronological age or by enrollment in the grade level the student would have been had the student attended school continuously since entering the ninth grade. If a student has dropped out of a public school, has attended the OIC program and returns as an OIC senior in a Richland secondary school, the following requirements must be followed:

1. OIC Seniors
 - A. The student must be enrolled in five classes for both the first and second semesters.
 - B. The student must complete the following courses of study: One semester each of American Government, Current World Problems, language arts literature and language arts writing. One year each in mathematics, science, and an elective class.
 - C. Upon satisfactory completion of these courses and complying with all applicable rules and regulations required of Richland secondary students, the student will be eligible to graduate with their graduating class.

2. OIC Juniors

If a student returns to be a junior, deficient in the ninth or tenth grade, the following requirements must be met:

 - A. The student must enroll in at least five classes.
 - B. The student must complete the following courses of study: One year each of English, social studies, mathematics, science and an elective class.
 - C. Upon satisfactory completion of the junior year, the student will be classified as a senior and must follow the requirements listed in #1 above.

Appeal Process

Parents/guardians may appeal the selection committee's decision by completing the appeal form. The form is available in the Student Services office at the District's Administrative building. Grounds for appeal include but are not limited to errors in scoring, testing bias against students who are members of a protected class, and special circumstances including unique, untestable characteristics evident in student performances or products. The written appeal must include reasons for the appeal and any supporting documentation.

The appeal request and supporting evidence must be submitted to the Superintendent or designee within ten school business days of receiving the Committee's decision. The

Superintendent or designee will review the student's file, assessment data, and additional evidence provided in the request for appeal.

The decision will be made by the Superintendent or designee within ten school days after receipt of the written appeal. The parent/guardian will be notified of the decision in writing. The decision of the Superintendent or designee will be final.

RSD #400

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