

# INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT #877 POLICY

## Buffalo-Hanover-Montrose

INDEX TITLE Instruction SERIES NO. 600

POLICY TITLE Early Entrance CODE NO. 630

### I. PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to establish a procedure to consider a student for early entrance to kindergarten as an exception to the age entrance requirements as set forth in Minn. Stat. § 120A.20, Subd. 1(b) (Admission to Public School).

### II. GENERAL STATEMENT OF POLICY

- A. The school district recognizes that under certain circumstances, exceptions to the age entrance requirements for kindergarten may be appropriate to make, depending on the individual student.
- B. According to Minn. Stat. § 120A.20, Subd. 1(b) (Admission to Public School), a person shall not be admitted to a public school (1) as a kindergarten pupil, unless the pupil is at least five years of age on September 1 of the calendar year in which the school year for which the pupil seeks admission commences; or (2) as a 1<sup>st</sup> grade student, unless the pupil is at least six years of age on September 1 of the calendar year in which the school year for which the pupil seeks admission commences or has completed kindergarten; except that any school board may establish a policy for admission of selected pupils at an earlier age.

### III. EARLY ENTRANCE ADMISSION ASSESSMENT

- A. All requests for early entrance as an exception to Minn. Stat. § 120A.20, Subd. 1(b) (Admission to Public School) will follow the guidelines established within this policy.
- B. Parents must apply in writing by April 1. Exceptions will be made for parents who move into the district after April 1 and prior to the start of school.
- C. Each child, along with the parents/guardians will meet with the principal and the early entrance screener of the school serving their attendance area for a formal interview. At this time, the application and child's general readiness will be discussed.
- D. The school district will consider only those kindergarten candidates who will have their fifth birthday prior to October 31.

- E. Following the interview, the early entrance screener will screen the child using the Brigance screening tool. The child would be expected to obtain minimum BHM scores in the three areas of core assessments, self-help and social-emotional readiness to be considered beyond this step.
- F. If the child has successfully completed all of the steps and screening indicates that the child is a good candidate for early entrance to kindergarten, the parent will schedule an evaluation for the child with a licensed psychologist of their choice at no cost to the school district. The child is expected to obtain an IQ score equal to or above one standard deviation above average. Other assessments may be recommended if needed to make an informed decision.

The parent-selected psychologist will provide a written report of findings and recommendations to the principal.

- H. The principal will communicate with the parents/guardians to report results and suggest options.
- I. Any early entrance placement will be made on a six-week trial basis, after which time the parents and the Early Entrance Team will meet to determine the suitability of the placement.
- J. In situations where students have demonstrated exceptional performance in the screening process, the principal will communicate that information to the Gifted Services Coordinator.
- K. Any appeal of the decision shall be filed with the Director of Teaching & Learning. The appeal committee shall consist of the Director of Teaching & Learning, one elementary principal, two teachers selected by the Director of Teaching & Learning, and one school board member. The appeal shall be heard within ten working days of notification. A majority decision of the committee shall be rendered within three days and is final.

**Legal References:** Minn. Stat. § 120A.20, Subd. 1(b) (Admission to Public School)

**Administrative Offices**  
**Buffalo, Minnesota 55313**

**DATE OF ADOPTION**      July 14, 2008

**DATE OF REVIEW**      May 28, 2024

**DATE OF APPROVAL**      May 28, 2024