

The Board of Education of the Eau Claire Area School District operates a five-year old kindergarten program for all resident students who are five-years-old by September 1 of the year they propose to enter school. The Board will grant students who are enrolled in the four-year-old kindergarten program an opportunity for early acceleration to kindergarten. The Board will also grant students who are enrolled in the 5-year-old kindergarten program an opportunity for early acceleration to first grade. Early admission/early acceleration is only appropriate for a very small number of students who are gifted and talented. The Board recognizes, however, that some students may benefit from early acceleration.

Students who apply for admission to 5-year-old kindergarten or first grade on the basis of successful prior schooling outside of the Eau Claire Area School District will be placed in the requested grade level. The school principal will determine, subsequently, whether there should be any changes in grade placement based on the individual student's full range of abilities and needs.

Students who are approved for early acceleration to 5-year-old kindergarten or first grade will automatically be advanced to the next grade level upon successful completion of the initial year of early acceleration.

The Board directs the administration to develop procedures and establish criteria for evaluating students for early admission/early acceleration. The criteria for early acceleration will be based on consideration of the individual student's full range of abilities and needs including, but not limited to, his/her ability to cope with the established environment intellectually, academically, socially, physically, behaviorally, and emotionally.

Based on the investigation and evaluation of all the evidence, the Acceleration Decision Planning Team will make a determination regarding early acceleration. If the Acceleration Team does not recommend early acceleration, the parents may appeal the decision to the Executive Director of Teaching and Learning. The appeal process will be exhausted at this administrative level.

### **Other Grades**

The Board has established a four-year-old kindergarten program (Eau Claire 4 Tomorrow) for students wanting to enter the Eau Claire Area School District. To enroll in the program a student must turn four years of age on or before September 1 of the year in which admission is sought. There shall be no early admission/early acceleration into the four-year-old kindergarten program.

Admission to all grades beyond first grade shall involve a consideration of chronological age, grade most recently completed, and the readiness of the student to do the work required at the grade level.

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Referenced Acts, Statutes, Instructions: §115.77, 118.14, 118.145, 120.12(25), 121.02(1)(d), Wisconsin State Statutes, PI8.01(2)(d), Wisconsin Administrative Code

Cross Reference: 345.4, Promotion and Retention; 421-Rule, Early Admission Procedures; 421-Exhibit, Request for Early Admission

Adopted: February 1981

Revised: August 2000, December 2008, April 2017

The following procedures and criteria shall be followed in complying with the Board of Education's established policy regarding application for early admission to kindergarten and first grade. The child must be four years old by September 1 of the year in which they wish to enroll to be considered for kindergarten; five years old by September 1 for first grade.

### 1. Procedures

- a. Parents/guardians may make written application to the building principal of the neighborhood elementary school in which the child intends to enroll. Such application shall be made by April 15 of the year the child intends to enroll. (Forms for making application are available at each elementary school office.) Students transferring from outside of the district may complete and file an application after April 15 if necessary.
- b. The principal and representative of the gifted/talented program will hold a personal interview with the parent(s)/guardian(s) to determine the reasons for requesting early admission to school. Parents/guardians will be provided information regarding policy and procedures; and will be counseled regarding the appropriateness of the application at this conference.
- c. Parents will enroll their child in the age appropriate EC4T site of their choice or kindergarten of their neighborhood school. Procedures for early entrance/early admission to kindergarten or first grade will be implemented. Preliminary screening will occur after six weeks of instruction in EC4T or the kindergarten classroom.
- d. If the preliminary screening at six weeks suggests the student as a potential candidate for early acceleration, the Acceleration Decision Planning Team (e.g., parent, current teacher, receiving teacher, principal, gifted/talented resource teacher, school psychologist, reading specialist, guidance counselor, and EC4T director if necessary) will conduct appropriate evaluations of the student and convene at the end of the first trimester to consider the results and determine appropriate placement for the student. If there is insufficient evidence to recommend further evaluations at that time, students will continue to be monitored for possible future placement options.
- e. If the Acceleration Decision Planning Team does not recommend early acceleration, the parents/guardians may appeal the decision to the Executive Director of Teaching and Learning. The appeal process will be exhausted at this administrative level.

### 2. Criteria

Data from observations, assessments, and evaluations in the EC4T setting indicate that the student demonstrates:

- ◆ Superior intellectual ability
- ◆ Proficiency in language skills and the ability to express himself or herself well
- ◆ Grade appropriate social, emotional, and behavioral development as evidenced by classroom participation and interaction with peers
- ◆ Appropriate academic abilities for success in the projected grade level

### 3. Progress Monitoring

Students who are grade-level accelerated will be monitored by the classroom teacher and gifted/talented program personnel to provide supplementary instruction and programming as necessary.

Adopted: February 1981, Revised: December 2008, April 2017



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 Eau Claire, WI 54701-3770  
 (715) 852-3045  
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 ATTN: Student Services

APPLICATION FOR EARLY ENTRANCE TO  KINDERGARTEN  FIRST GRADE

Child's Name	Birth Date	Sex
Address	School	
Parents		Phone

Birth Certificate Approved:  Yes  No

Brother's and Sister's Name	Age	Local School Child Attends

Pre-School Experience: (Where, When)

**EARLY ADMISSION/ EARLY ACCELERATION REGULATIONS AND PROCEDURES**

Research and experience clearly indicate that most children will have a more successful experience if they enter school with their usual age group. It is recognized, however, that there are a few intellectually superior, socially mature children who could benefit from early admission/early acceleration to school. The early admission/early acceleration procedure consists of the following:

1. The child must be four years old by September 1 of the year in which they wish to enroll to be considered for kindergarten; five years old by September 1 for first grade. (Verification of the official birth certificate is required.)
2. Complete and file an application form on or before April 15. Students transferring from outside of the district may complete and file an application after April 15 if necessary.
3. Initial screening consists of an appointment with the principal, a representative of the gifted/talented program, and the parent/guardian. At this meeting, early admission/early acceleration kindergarten procedures will be explained.

