

## **Union County Public Schools Board Policy**

### **Standards for Early Admission to Kindergarten**

The 1997 General Assembly passed legislation allowing a child who has reached his/her fourth birthday by April 16 to enter kindergarten if he or she demonstrates an extraordinary level of academic ability and maturity. In determining eligibility, the principal shall convene a committee of educational professionals who will assist him/her in making decisions about each individual child. Criteria that shall be considered include the following:

- Aptitude
- Achievement
- Performance
- Observable Student Behavior
- Motivation to Learn
- Student Interest

#### **Student Aptitude Indicator: 98<sup>th</sup> percentile**

A child eligible to enter school early shall be precocious in academic and social development and score at the **98<sup>th</sup>** percentile on a standard individual test of intelligence such as the **Stanford-Binet-Fifth Edition, the Wechsler Preschool and Primary Scale of Intelligence-Fourth Edition, and the Differential Ability Scales** that shall be administered by an outside licensed psychologist.

#### **Achievement**

##### **Indicator: 98<sup>th</sup> percentile**

Children entering kindergarten early shall be functioning two to three years beyond their peers. Children eligible for early admission to kindergarten shall score at the **98<sup>th</sup>** percentile on **both** Reading and Mathematics on a standard test of achievement such as the **Metropolitan Readiness Test, the Stanford Early School Achievement Test, the Mini Battery of Achievement, the Woodcock-Johnson**, administered by a licensed psychologist or a member of his/her professional staff who is trained in the use of the instrument as long as he/she has no potential conflict of interest in the outcome of the assessment.

#### **Performance**

##### **Indicator: Student samples of work**

The child shall be able to perform tasks well above their age peers. Some indicators the principal may observe are the child's ability in independent reading, problem solving skills, advanced vocabulary, and some writing fluency. The parents shall submit a sample of student work showing outstanding examples of ability in any of the following areas:

art, math, writing, dramatic play, creative productions, science, social interactions, etc. For further indication of performance, the principal may instruct a teacher to complete an informal reading assessment.

**Observable Student Behavior/Student Interest**

***Indicator: 2 letters of recommendation  
Social development checklist***

The child shall demonstrate social and developmentally mature enough to be in a structured school setting for a full school day. The child should be capable of following verbal instructions and functioning independently within a group. The school system shall require two recommendation letters with specific documentation of physical and social maturity from preschool teachers, child care workers, pediatricians, or other adults with direct knowledge of the child. Documentation checklists that might be useful are the **California Preschool Competency Scale**, the **Harrison Scale**, or any other comparable scale of early social development.

**Motivation/Student Interest**

**Indicator: Informal interview with the child  
Structured parent interview**

Principals or his/her designee shall determine this information in an informal interview with the child and in a more structured interview with the parent to determine if the child displays a thirst for knowledge and seeks new and challenging learning situations.

**Time Lines**

<b>10 days prior to the opening of school</b>	<b>Parent submits all required documentation</b>
<b>Kindergarten orientation days</b>	<b>Child attends for observation and takes the Early Prevention of School Failure screening and informal reading assessment (DRA)</b>
<b>Within first 90 days of enrollment</b>	<b>Principal has right to rescind placement</b>
<b>10 days notice to parent</b>	<b>Notification to parent if placement has been rescinded</b>

A parent wishing to submit his/her child for consideration for early admission to kindergarten shall present to the principal of his/her local school the required information within the first **ten (10) calendar days prior** to the school's instructional year. All testing must be administered after April 16. The principal will act on the request **prior to the beginning of the school year. The child would be allowed to attend the kindergarten orientation period for additional observation.** If the child is admitted to kindergarten, before the end of the first ninety (90) calendar days of the child's being enrolled, the principal may rescind his/her approval based on substantial evidence documenting that the child is not adjusting satisfactorily to the school setting. If the decision is made to remove the child from school, parents must be given at least ten (10) days notice to arrange child care if needed.

**Note:** House Bill 1099 states that it is the responsibility of the principal to find that the child has extraordinary academic ability and has the maturity to justify admission to school and, further, it is the responsibility of the parents/guardians to present information to the principal to support that the child has extraordinary academic ability and is appropriately mature to justify early admission.