

**Early Admission Into Kindergarten Policy**

Children who shall attain the age of five years on or before January 1<sup>st</sup> following the opening of school shall be eligible for admittance into kindergarten. Children whose parents formally request consideration for a variation in the above rule shall be eligible for appropriate testing by the Waterbury Department of Education. Such testing shall guide the Superintendent or his/her designee in the acceptance or rejection of the request, or offering a modification to such request. The programmatic decision of the Superintendent in such instances shall be final.



**Early Admission Into Kindergarten Regulation**

In keeping with the Waterbury Board of Education policy outlined in Early Admission Into Kindergarten Policy, the following procedures shall be strictly adhered to in any request for early admission to kindergarten.

Since research on early admission to kindergarten has demonstrated that it is a “high risk” venture, only those children who have attained their fourth birthday between January 1 and June 30 will be considered for early admission. In addition, the child must exhibit evidence of advanced cognitive communication, self-help and socialization skills.

Formal request to the Superintendent must be made no later than June 1 of the calendar year in which the child would be admitted to school.

After a formal request to the Superintendent’s Office, the parents will meet with the child’s Waterbury District School Principal and the school psychologist who is assigned to that building. The meeting will determine if informal evidence does not exist of advanced skills that would warrant further evaluation. If evidence exists, then, parental consent for a psychological evaluation will be obtained. (If Special Education needs are suspected then the formal PPT process should be instituted).

The school psychologist will administer a standardized, individual intelligence test (i.e., the Stanford Binet 4th Edition or its revision) and standardized measure of adaptive behavior (i.e., Vineland Adaptive Behavior Scale or its revision - interview edition and/or classroom edition - including the following domains: communication skills, daily living skills and socialization skills). A Psychological Report will be written. The report will be reviewed with the parents. A copy of the psychological report will be sent to the Superintendent of Schools and a copy will be filed within the child’s confidential case folder. The case folder should be held within the Department of Special Services “Closed Files”. In no case should a decision be made by the School Principal or the Psychologist, nor shall any opinion be given to the parent/guardian.

The Superintendent will make the final decision regarding early admission to kindergarten. Suggested criteria for early admission would include scores of two standard deviations above the mean on the test composite of the Stanford-Binet 4th Edition and on the three domains listed above on the Vineland Adaptive Behavior Scale.