

## **500.5L EARLY ENTRANCE**

### **I. PURPOSE**

The purpose of this policy is to set forth policies and guidelines for early entrance in the New York Mills School System.

### **II. GENERAL STATEMENT OF POLICY**

BE IT UNDERSTOOD: That the District 553 school system as per State Law, uses ages five and six as of September 1st as the entrance ages for Kindergarten and Grade one respectively. The school system discourages any early entrance application sighting maturity and developmental time as beneficial rather than detrimental to young children.

BE IT ALSO UNDERSTOOD: In as much as Minnesota State Law allows the School system the authority to develop a local "Early Entrance" procedure based upon its own criteria, the following will be used upon parent/guardian written request. Also, any variance locally granted by the School Board will require specific and individual School Board action after local assessment of any child recommended by staff for early entrance.

APPLICATION DEADLINE: Please make said request before April 15 preceding the proposed Fall early entrance.

### **III. RESPONSIBILITY OF USE**

#### **A. PARENT REQUEST FOR EARLY ENTRANCE –**

Please submit to the Building Principal

Parents Name:

Address:

Phone number:

Child's name:

Age and Birth date:

As the parent/guardian, I make it known that I am initiating this request. This is my/our request for the school to consider an early entrance for our child into the District # 553 system. We/I will fully accept responsibility of any future concerns relating to the young age of the child in the peer group/grade level. We/I also understand that a special six week progress report conference will be held and as well as a special year-end performance evaluation. Also, I/we fully understand that the School District philosophy is to follow the state law and not grant waivers.

As the parent/guardian, I/we also understand and agree that the School District's

"Early Entrance" policy states that, should our child be accepted, there will be a six-week review of our child's progress. We understand that our child's continued participation under early admittance is conditioned on a six-week review that our child is making satisfactory progress. If the School District's representatives determine during the six-week review that our child is not making satisfactory progress and should no longer continue under early admittance, but we disagree, the policy establishes a method for resolving our disagreement. By signing below, we agree to be bound by the terms of the "Early Entrance" policy and waive any provisions of the Pupil Fair Dismissal Act to the contrary. A copy of the "Early Entrance" policy and Minnesota Pupil Fair Dismissal Act has been provided to us by the School District.

Parent/Guardian: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

B. NOTICE OF INTENT TO CONDUCT EARLY ENTRANCE EVALUATION:

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Dear:

A notice for a formal early entrance evaluation has been received from the Building Principal at your request.

The assessment will be conducted by the Early Entrance Team which is composed of the following members:

TEAM MEMBER AREAS OF CONCERN

- 1. \*School Psychologist
- 2. ECFE Coordinator
- 3. Kindergarten Teacher
- 4. School Nurse
- 5. Special Ed. Teacher/Speech Teacher
- 6. Building Principal

The federal and state regulations require that you provide written permission for the persons listed to assess your child in the given areas and review the results.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

\* Assessment Team Leader

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Upon receipt of your written permission you will be contacted regarding the

scheduling of the assessment.

#### **IV. ASSESSMENT TEAM REVIEW, EVALUATION, AND RECOMMENDATION**

The Team will only provide a positive waiver recommendation if all of the following are adequately affirmed;

- A. Available classroom space.
- B. A display of very superior language, physical, social-emotional development, and scores within or above the very superior range on a standard intelligence test administered by the School System.
- C. Determination that no extra burden will be placed upon the School System due to the age.
- D. Test results used for part of the determination.
  - 1.) Kindergarten Readiness Achievement.
  - 2.) Psychomotor.
  - 3.) Psychological.
  - 4.) Intelligence.
  - 5.) Maturity.
- E. Parental interview.
- F. Child interview.

#### **V. SCHOOL BOARD ACTION ON TEAM RECOMMENDATION:**

- A. The Team will provide a written recommendation to the School Board for consideration.
- B. The School Board has the authority to act by accepting or rejecting the Team recommendation as it sees fit.

#### **VI. SIX WEEK REVIEW IF EARLY ENTRANCE IS GRANTED:**

- A. If a child is accepted for early admittance, that child's progress will be reviewed after six weeks of school at a conference consisting of: the parent(s), classroom teacher, school psychologist, and the building principal.
- B. At this conference, the participants will attempt to reach a consensus on whether the child should continue in the present school placement based upon the adequacy of the student's progress.
- C. If the participants reach a consensus that the child should not continue in the present school placement, the child shall be withdrawn from early admittance and allowed to later attend school according to the regular age requirements of Minnesota law.
- D. If the School District's representatives believe the child should be withdrawn from early admittance, but the parent(s) disagree, then the following process shall be used:

1. The School District's representatives provide a written recommendation to the School Board whether the child should continue in school under early admittance.
2. The District shall make reasonable efforts to inform the parent(s) of when the School Board will be considering the recommendation.
3. The parent(s) shall have the opportunity to submit to the School Board, in writing, their reasons as to why they believe their child should continue under early admittance.
4. Based upon the information submitted by the School District's representatives, the parents (if any), and the Superintendent's recommendation (if any), the School Board shall decide whether the student will continue in school under early admittance. The School Board's decision shall be final and binding on all interested parties.
5. This process is a condition of the child's early admittance to school. To the extent that the Minnesota Fair Pupil Dismissal Act in any way varies from the above process, the parent by agreeing to their child's early admittance waives and relinquishes the provisions of that Act and agrees that the above process is binding and shall be used in its place.

**VII. TEAM RESPONSIBILITY IF EARLY ENTRANCE IS GRANTED:**

- A. The Team will conduct a written year-end evaluation to determine retention or promotion.
- B. Upon completion of the year-end report, the Team will cease in its relationship with said child.

**VIII. APPROVED EARLY ENTRANCE CHILD RELATIONSHIP TO "EARLY ENTRANCE" STATUS AFTER ONE YEAR:**

- A. Said child's first year performance will be evaluated by the Team.
- B. Upon completion of the first year cycle of enrollment, the child's performance thereafter will be dealt with under normal procedures.

**IX. "JUNIOR KINDERGARTEN"**

- A. If the District operates a half time Junior Kindergarten, children with a summer birthday would be encouraged to attend this program.
- B. Students under the age of five September first would be encouraged to apply for "Junior Kindergarten."
- C. See policy regarding "Junior Kindergarten" as defined as a program for some students the year before Kindergarten.

**Legal References:** Minn statute § 120.06, subd. 1 (age limitations; pupils)

**Cross References:**