

## **Entrance Age**

### **PRESCHOOL**

In accordance with appropriate state and federal legal requirements, any child who has been identified as disabled, and who is three (3) or four (4) years of age, by August 1 of the current year, shall be eligible for a free and appropriate preschool education and related services.

Children at risk of educational failure who are four (4) by August 1 may enter preschool. All other four (4) year old children shall be served to the extent placements are available.<sup>1</sup>

### **PRIMARY SCHOOL**

A child who is five (5) or who may become five (5) years of age by August 1 may enter primary school and may advance through the primary program without regard to age in accordance with [KRS 158.031](#).

A child who is six (6) years of age, or who may become six (6) years of age by August 1, shall attend public school or qualify for an exemption as provided by [KRS 159.030](#).<sup>2</sup>

The District shall establish guidelines to determine a student's level of academic and social skills when that student is being considered for advancement through the primary program.<sup>3</sup> A student who is at least five (5) years of age, but less than six (6) years of age, may be enrolled in the second level of the primary program in keeping with the process set out in Kentucky Administrative Regulation.<sup>3 & 4</sup>

### **PETITION PROCESS**

Parents/guardians may petition the Board to allow their child to enter school earlier than permitted under statutory age requirements. On receipt of a petition, the District shall conduct an evaluation process to help determine a student's readiness to engage in and benefit from early entry to school. The process shall be established in accordance with the following:

1. If a child does not meet state entry age requirements a parent/guardian may submit a written request, by September 1st, to the Director of Pupil Personnel. The written request should include the child's age and state the reasons the parent is requesting early entry to school for their child. Families who are new to the District after the September 1st deadline may submit a written request for the Early Entrance petition process. New to the District documentation must be provided to the Director of Pupil Personnel before the guardian/parent can begin the petition process.
2. The District shall use the state contracted Brigance Assessment along with The HCPS Early Entrance Application to determine an underage student's readiness for entry into school. Brigance screen cut scores for kindergarten readiness will be used in evaluation to determine readiness.
3. Based on staff recommendations, the Superintendent shall recommend to the Board whether to grant the request.
4. Considerations may include availability of space and funding.

Any tuition amounts charged to students permitted early entry under this Policy shall be the same as that charged to other tuition paying students who meet statutory age requirements.<sup>2</sup>

**Entrance Age****CRITERIA FOR EARLY ENTRANCE**

Criteria for early entrance will include:

1. A score at or above 61 on the Brigance Kindergarten screener. 61-88 on the Brigance for age 5 (years) 0 (months) thru 5 (years) 5th (month) is labeled “Ready”. Below 61 is labeled “Not Ready” on the Brigance Screen III Cut Scores for Kindergarten Readiness;
2. Parental observation and input; and
3. HCPS Early Entrance Application.

**PROOF OF AGE**

Upon enrollment for the first time in any elementary or secondary school, a student or student's parent shall provide:

- A certified copy of the student's birth certificate, or
- Other reliable proof of the student’s identity and age with an affidavit explaining the inability to produce a copy of the birth certificate.<sup>5</sup>

**REFERENCES:**

<sup>1</sup>[KRS 157.3175](#)

<sup>2</sup>[KRS 158.030](#)

<sup>3</sup>702 KAR 7:125<sup>4</sup>[702 KAR 007:1254](#)[KRS 158.031](#)

<sup>5</sup>[KRS 158.032](#); [KRS 158.035](#); [KRS 214.034](#)

[KRS 158.990](#); [KRS 159.010](#); [KRS 159.030](#)

[702 KAR 001:160](#); [704 KAR 005:070](#)

[OAG 82-408](#); [OAG 85-55](#)

P. L. 114-95, (Every Student Succeeds Act of 2015), 20 U.S.C. § 6301 et seq.  
McKinney-Vento Act, 42 U.S.C. 11431 et seq.

**RELATED POLICIES:**

08.22

09.124

09.126 (re requirements/exceptions for students from military families)

Adopted/Amended: 2/8/2022

Order #: 22-775