

ENTRANCE AGE

Background

HPSD recognizes the importance of education during the early years for a child's development and future education. There are differing entrance ages depending on the assessed education needs of the child. In most instances, children begin school in a kindergarten program; however, for children with identified special needs, Early Childhood Services programs are available.

Definitions

Early Childhood Services – an education program offered to a child who is younger than six (6) years of age as of September 1.

Kindergarten – last year of an ECS program prior to grade one (1) is considered the kindergarten year. Kindergarten is an optional program.

Grade One – In accordance with Section 7 of the Education Act, a child who reaches the age of six (6) by September 1 shall attend school.

Procedures

1. Kindergarten
 - 1.1. Children who will be five (5) years of age on or before December 31 of any school year shall be permitted to attend Kindergarten.
 - 1.2. A child who qualifies for Program Unit Funding may be considered for entrance to ECS/Kindergarten if age requirements are met.
 - 1.3. Note, residency requirements do not apply to kindergarten children.
2. Early Childhood Services (ECS)
 - 2.1. Children younger than the regular entrance age may be eligible for ECS programming based on the following criteria from Alberta Education:
 - 2.1.1. ECS child with a mild/moderate disability/delay or who is gifted and talented
 - 2.1.1.1. Age on September 1: Minimum 3 years 8 months; Maximum less than 6 years.
 - 2.1.1.2. A child who is assessed as having mild or moderate cognitive disabilities; visual or hearing impairments; emotional/behavioural, physical, medical or multiple disabilities; or communication delays or who is gifted and talented.
 - 2.1.1.3. A child who is assessed as having exceptional potential and/or performance across a wide range of abilities in one or more areas.
 - 2.1.2. ECS child learning English as a Second Language (ESL)
 - 2.1.2.1. Age on September 1: Minimum: 3 years 8 months; Maximum less than 6 years.
 - 2.1.2.2. A child who is assessed as having insufficient English language skills to succeed in school.
 - 2.1.3. ECS child with severe disabilities/delays
 - 2.1.3.1. Age on September 1: Minimum 2 years 8 months of age and less than 4 years 8 months of age on September 1.
 - 2.1.3.2. A child who is assessed as having a severe disability/delay and, for funding purposes, has not yet accessed two years of pre-K programming.
 - 2.2. Programming hours for children younger than the regular entrance age shall take into consideration the child's developmental level and educational needs.
3. The Principal shall inform the parent of the decision regarding early entrance. The parent shall also be informed of the right to appeal the decision of the Principal to the Superintendent.
4. Grade One
 - 4.1. A resident student who will be six (6) years of age on or before December 31 of the current school year shall be eligible for entrance to Grade 1.

References

Education Act Sections 3, 4, 7, 11, 21, 52, 53

Funding Manual for School Authorities, Alberta Education

Cross Reference

[Administrative Procedure 218 – Early Childhood Services](#)