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Policy 102  
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Rev.

## **102 EARLY ENTRANCE TO KINDERGARTEN**

### **1. PURPOSE**

- 1.1. The purpose of this policy is to explicate the school's requirements when considering a child for early entrance to kindergarten.

### **2. CRITERIA FOR EARLY ENTRANCE TO KINDERGARTEN (EEK)**

- 2.1. Children will be considered for EEK if their fifth birthday falls between September 2 and October 31.
- 2.2. Children must demonstrate superior intellectual ability, defined as performance at or above the 90%ile on a nationally normed, individually administered test of cognitive ability, +/- the standard error of measurement.
- 2.3. Children must demonstrate pre-academic/academic skills above average when compared to the skills of the majority of entering kindergarteners. Children will take the Teaching Strategies Gold test that is administered to preschool students at the end of the year, and the school will determine if the children are ready for kindergarten based on their results.
- 2.4. Children must demonstrate socialization and behavior skills more advanced than the majority of entering kindergarteners, based upon results of a normative behavior rating scale, parent report, and kindergarten teacher observations made during a simulated kindergarten experience. Students must perform at this high level in all critical areas:
  - 2.4.1. Ability to separate easily from parent;
  - 2.4.2. Ability to focus attention for appropriate amount of time during learning tasks;
  - 2.4.3. Ability to complete tasks in reasonable amount of time;
  - 2.4.4. Ability to transition easily from task to task;
  - 2.4.5. Willingness to participate, share, and cooperate in groups;
  - 2.4.6. Relative ease in socializing with peers;
  - 2.4.7. Ability to verbalize easily with teacher and peers;
  - 2.4.8. Well-developed fine motor skills for drawing and cutting tasks.

### **2.5. PROCEDURES**

- 2.5.1. Kindergarten student enrollment will begin during the spring semester.
- 2.5.2. A completed application, birth certificate, and immunization record must be turned in to the office by the last business day in February to be considered for placement.

- 2.5.3. Siblings of currently enrolled students and the children of staff members will be given first priority.
- 2.5.4. A lottery will occur to fill the remaining available placements until each class reaches its maximum capacity.
- 2.5.5. Because Aurora Charter School is a dual-language school, all students complete a Home Language Questionnaire, which is included in the application and is used to determine ESL services.

## **2.6. DECISION MAKING**

- 2.6.1. The determination for eligibility for early entrance to kindergarten is made by a consensus decision of the assessment team. This determination is considered final. Results and the final determination will be shared with the parents and administration through a written report;
- 2.6.2. If accepted for early entrance, students may then enroll for kindergarten with the district's admissions contact person.

## **2.7. FOLLOW-UP**

- 2.7.1. Annually, data will be gathered on all Early Entrants to Kindergarten to determine if the students are academically successful in their advanced placement. This data will help assess the effectiveness of the Early Entrance process.