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Descriptor Term:
AGE REQUIREMENTS FOR INITIAL ENTRY

Descriptor Code:
4.2100

Legal References: G.S. 115C-288, -364; 16 N.C.A.C. 6E.0105, State Board of Education Policy GCS-J-001; McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act, 42 U.S.C. § 11431 *et seq.*

Cross References:

Except as otherwise specifically provided herein, the board of education requires that all students must meet the eligibility requirements for school admission established by the State and the board, including age, as well as, all requirements for admission and enrollment set forth in policy 4.2320 School Admission and Enrollment and 4.2110 Immunization and Health Requirements for School Admission. Any parent or guardian who is unclear whether age requirements are met is encouraged to contact the superintendent's office or the elementary school that the child is likely to attend.

A. Entitlement to Initial Entry

A child who is presented for enrollment at any time during the first one hundred and twenty (120) days of a school year will be considered eligible for initial entry in either of the following circumstances:

1. the child reaches or reached the age of five (5) on or before August 31 of that school year; or
2. the child did not reach the age of five (5) on or before August 31 of that school year but the child resided in another state and was attending school during that school year in accordance with that state's laws or rules prior to moving to North Carolina; or
3. The child did not reach the age of five on or before August 31 of that school year, but would be eligible to attend school during that school year in another state in accordance with the laws or rules of that state, and if all of the following apply:
 - a. the child's parent, legal custodian, legal guardian or person standing in loco parentis is a legal resident of North Carolina who is an active member of the uniformed services assigned to a permanent duty station in another state;
 - b. the child's parent, legal custodian, legal guardian or person standing in loco parentis is the sole legal custodian of the child;
 - c. the child's parent, legal custodian, legal guardian or person standing in loco parentis is deployed for duty away from the permanent duty station; and

- d. the child resides with an adult who is a domiciliary of a local school administrative unit in North Carolina as a result of the parent's deployment away from the permanent duty station.

B. Discretionary Enrollments for Initial Entry

The board may allow a child to be enrolled in either of the following circumstances:

1. the child is presented for enrollment after the first one hundred and twenty (120) days of a school year and meets one of the circumstances specified above for entitlement to initial entry; or
2. the child reached the age of four (4) on or before April 16; and the child is presented for enrollment no later than the end of the first month of the school year; and the principal of the school finds, based on information submitted by the child's parent, legal custodian or legal guardian, that the child is gifted and that the child has the maturity to justify admission to school. In making such a determination, the principal shall follow guidelines established by the State Board of Education. This board regards admission of a four (4) year old to be an extraordinary measure and not to be used merely because the child is developmentally advanced.

C. Grade Level of Initial Entry

The initial point of entry will be the kindergarten level. After initial entry, a principal may move the child to the first grade if the principal determines that by reason of maturity, the child may be served more appropriately in the first grade.

D. Evidence of Age

The principal may require the parent or guardian of any child presented for admission for the first time to furnish a certified copy of the child's birth certificate or other satisfactory evidence of the child's date of birth. However, for a student who is considered homeless, the inability to provide documentation shall not prohibit or cause a delay in enrollment of the student. The homeless liaison shall work with the student, parent, legal custodian or legal guardian, school personnel and other agencies to obtain the necessary enrollment records or other information in a timely manner.