

Delayed Entry into Five-Year-Old Kindergarten

- A. The district's four-year-old kindergarten program is for children turning four years of age between September 1st of the current year through the previous September 2nd. The Kindergarten program is for children turning five years of age September 1st of the current year through the previous September 2nd.
- B. Families requesting to delay kindergarten entrance for their kindergarten-eligible child and enroll the child in the four-year-old kindergarten program should contact the building administrator to discuss the district's procedures for delayed placement.
- C. Requests delayed placement should be made between February 1st and April 30th of the school year prior to enrollment or if new to the district as soon as possible. The decision will be determined by a team composed of: the child's parents, appropriate district's four-year-old and five-year-old kindergarten teacher(s), the building principal, an early childhood certified teacher, and a school psychologist).
  1. A meeting shall be held between school personnel and the parents to discuss the reasons for requesting a delayed placement and make a request to gather information about the child. School personnel will share information on current practices and curriculum in the district's four-year-old kindergarten and five-year-old kindergarten programs. School personnel will also share and discuss possible positive and negative effects of delayed placements found in research.
  2. A screening of information may be conducted by the school psychologist to determine the need and extent for further formal assessment, the types of assessment tools to be used, and the personnel to be involved with the child's evaluation.

3. An evaluation of the child may be conducted by the school psychologist to determine the child's potential to benefit from a delayed placement in the four-year-old kindergarten program or the child's potential to be successful in the kindergarten program.
4. Factors to be considered for delayed placement requests may include the child's:
  - a. Health and physical development
  - b. Social and emotional development
  - c. Language development and communication
  - d. Approaches to learning
  - e. Cognition and general knowledge
  - f. Age and date of birth
  - g. Previous educational experience
  - h. Options for alternate activities during the school year being considered
  - i. Possible long-term effects (both positive and negative) of the decision.
5. After the previous steps have been completed, the parents and school personnel will meet again to go over the results of the evaluation and decide the appropriateness of the child's delayed placement in the preschool program. The decision for the placement of the child will be made by July 15<sup>th</sup> or if for a new to the district student within ten work days of the initial meeting.
6. To appeal the decision of the team the parent must file a complaint with the superintendent who will hear the case and make a recommendation within ten work days. The parent then has the right to appeal that decision to the West Salem School Board for consideration at their next regularly scheduled meeting.

CROSS REFERENCE: West Salem Policy 421 Entrance Age for Four-Year-Old kindergarten, Kindergarten and First Grade

APPROVED: June 28, 2010