

Policy 221– Program of Study for Early Learning Programs (Grades PK through 5)

Revised policy and repeal of Policy 5112 (Entrance Requirements) effective July 1, 2019

1st reading April 11, 2019

2nd reading

3rd reading

Statutory authority West Virginia Code 18-5-13, 18-5-17, 18-5-18, and 18-8-1a; West Virginia Board of Education Policies 2510 and 2525

Administrative Guidelines

- i. Process for Placement, Promotion, Retention, and Acceleration of Students

The county shall provide for a curriculum of rigorous and challenging coursework, career-focused experiences, and awareness of postsecondary education and employment to all students in grades PK through 5. This curriculum shall comply with and / or exceed the requirements specified by West Virginia state law and West Virginia Board of Education (WVBE) policy.

Pre-Kindergarten Program

The Board recognizes that the West Virginia Universal Pre-Kindergarten Program exists as a collaborative partnership between the Board and a community partner(s) and is, in many ways, structured differently than programs in Kindergarten through 12th grade as a reflection of this partnership and its instructional purpose. As such, the Board defers regulation of this program to state policy and the County Collaborative Early Childhood Core Team unless otherwise noted in the Board's policies.

Uniform grading

All areas on which students are evaluated which represent instruction in the standards-focused curriculum as required by WVBE Policy 2510, including English language arts, mathematics, science, social studies, music, visual art, and wellness education, shall be graded as follows.

Numerical Grade Range	Letter Grade Assigned	Quality Points
90 – 100	A	4.0
80 – 89	B	3.0
70 – 79	C	2.0
60 – 69	D	1.0
0 – 59	F	0.0

Any areas on which students are evaluated in grades K through 5 which represent social / emotional, physical, or cognitive development, enrichment, exploration, and/or intervention, but which are not also represented in the standards-focused curriculum as required by WVBE Policy 2510, may be graded as follows. It shall be the responsibility of the principal of the school to establish at the beginning of the year if an area will be evaluated using this alternate grading scale.

Letter Grade Assigned	Qualitative Description
O	Outstanding performance

S	Satisfactory performance
U	Unsatisfactory performance
N	No grade assigned

Placement, Promotion, Retention, and Acceleration

Students shall be assigned to grade levels upon enrollment as appropriate to their social, emotional, and academic development. The Superintendent shall develop administrative guidelines to detail the process that schools shall use to place, promote, retain, and accelerate students, as appropriate, and the responsibilities and expectations of all involved stakeholders, including but not limited to students, teachers, principals, and parents.

Entrance Requirements

~~The Board of Education shall establish entrance age requirements for students which are consistent with statute and sound educational practice and which ensure the equitable treatment of all eligible children.~~

Preschool Pre-Kindergarten

A child is eligible for entrance into ~~preschool~~ pre-kindergarten if s/he attains the age of four (4) ~~on or before August 31st prior to July 1~~ of the year in which s/he ~~applies for entrance~~ enrolls and has not yet attained the age at which s/he ~~will be admitted to~~ would be eligible to enter kindergarten.

Kindergarten

A child is eligible for entrance into kindergarten if s/he attains the age of five (5) ~~but not yet the age of six (6) on or before August 31st prior to July 1~~ of the year in which s/he ~~applies for entrance~~ enrolls. ~~A child under age six (6) who is enrolled in kindergarten will be considered of compulsory school age.~~

Advanced Entrance

The Board may admit to kindergarten such children ~~as may be ineligible by reason of age but demonstrate the ability and need to undertake a program of education who~~ attain the age of five (5) prior to September 1 of the school year in which they enroll but not prior to July 1 if and only if the children demonstrate the intellectual and social maturity necessary to perform satisfactorily in kindergarten.

~~The Board designates the following necessary standards and testing programs required for such early admission.~~

~~_____ A. _____ If the parent(s) consider(s) the child to have sufficient intellectual and social maturity to do satisfactory work in kindergarten, and~~

~~_____ B. _____ If the child will be five (5) years old between September 1st and the last day of the 2nd school calendar month in mid-October, and~~

~~_____ C. _____ If the parent(s) wish(es) to apply for advanced entrance for the child, they must contact the Roane County Director of Special Education or the principal at their local school, and request that the child be given an assessment to determine the child's qualification for advanced entrance, which will be conducted at no parental expense.~~

Minimum Requirements for Advanced Entrance

~~The Any child who may apply for advanced entrance to kindergarten will~~ shall be individually assessed by a school psychologist to determine if s/he is mature enough mentally, socially, emotionally, and physically to participate successfully in the kindergarten program. ~~If the child's initial test performance suggests potential eligibility for gifted education, such child achieving at this level will be referred for an additional evaluation of individual intelligence. Specific tests selected by the psychologist for administration must be approved by the Roane County Office of Special Education~~ Director of Student Support Services. Any child who is determined to

possess the mental, social, emotional, and physical maturity required for successful participation in kindergarten may be recommended to the Superintendent for advanced entrance to kindergarten by the school psychologist who assessed him/her. The Superintendent shall have sole authority to permit such an entrance based on this recommendation.

~~A child entering school for the first time must show authentic proof of birth date (such as presenting a certified birth certificate), and written verification of immunizations.~~

~~August 10th will be the final date for accepting applications requesting advanced entrance into kindergarten.~~

~~Notwithstanding the previous provisions of this policy, if space is still available in a particular Roane County school kindergarten program after the placement of:~~

~~_____ A. _____ pre-registered students who have met the age criteria of WV Code 18-5-18; and~~

~~_____ B. _____ early placement students who have an intelligence quotient two (2) standard deviations above the mean on an individually administered comprehensive test of intellectual ability, with consideration of 1.0 standard error of measurement at the sixty-eight percent (68%) confidence level; and~~

~~_____ C. _____ if there are more applicants than "instructional spaces for placement" available, then the student(s) scoring at the highest level will be given preferential enrollment.~~

~~In summary, additional students may be considered for kindergarten placement who will be five (5) years old between September 1st and the last day of the 2nd school calendar month in mid-October, and exhibit "no developmental delays on appropriate tests selected by the Roane County Schools Department of Special Education." This implies that potential students "possess the intellectual and social maturity to perform acceptably in kindergarten." Parent(s)/guardian(s) will be notified of their child's eligibility by the principal, during the week following kindergarten students' first week of attendance.~~

~~The Board will shall admit to kindergarten any child who has not attained the entrance age requirement of this County, but who was properly enrolled in an approved public school kindergarten before transferring to this County.~~

~~There will be a four (4) week trial period at the beginning of the school year when early entrance students will be carefully observed by the teacher.~~

~~A child may be removed from a kindergarten program when the principal, teacher and parent or guardian concur that the best interest of the child would not be served by requiring further attendance, and the principal shall make the final determination with regard to compulsory school attendance in kindergarten (WV Code 18-8-1a). The removed child should be enrolled in kindergarten the following year to fulfill the requirements of state law.~~

First Grade

~~A child is eligible for entrance into first grade if s/he attains the age of six (6) on or before August 31st of the year in which s/he applies for entrance and has completed the kindergarten program of this County or an equivalent program elsewhere and has been recommended by the teacher for advancement to the first grade. This requirement may only be waived if a request is made and approved by the County's Pupil Personnel Services Committee.~~

~~The Superintendent shall require that Each child who registers for entrance to school provide:~~

~~_____ A. _____ his/her birth certificate or similar documentation authorized by law as proof of age and birthdate;~~

~~_____ B. _____ a certified copy of any custody order or decree together with any modification in such an order or decree;~~

~~_____C._____immunization records.~~

~~If such documents are not provided, the child may be admitted under the Superintendent's guidelines. Appropriate law enforcement authorities may be notified.~~

~~The Superintendent shall also ensure that Each child entering the County's school system for the first time has properly screened for hearing, vision, speech and language disabilities and have age appropriate immunizations as defined by the American Academy of Pediatrics and recommended by the West Virginia Department of Health and Human Resources. If documentation of the screenings for hearing, vision, and speech and language disabilities is not provided by the parents/guardians of the student, such screening shall be conducted by the County.~~

~~Any parent may provide the County with a written statement indicating that s/he does not wish to have his/her child screened.~~